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HISTORY
OF
PUTNAM COUNTY
OHIO

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By
GEORGE D. KINDER

pt. 1

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

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DEDICATION.

To the dear, departed ones, whose busy hands changed the giant forests into fertile fields; whose love of home established the hearthstones, the tender ties of which yet bind together the heartstrings of the native born; whose patriotism gave the best of their lives and substance for the defense of their country; whose graves make sacred the soil their feet so often trod.

1851

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

In writing the history of a county, the local historian is confined to a relatively small unit and is not expected to go outside the limits of the county only in so far as to make explanatory the relation of the county to contiguous counties or to the state at large. The historian is also handicapped by all the tradition which is handed down through succeeding generations, traditions with little or no historical background and bordering on the romantic. While tradition is often connected with history, it does not often carry with it the substratum of fact which should characterize real historical narrative. Personal feelings and opinionistic whims find expression in the tales of our forefathers and are repeated so often that they are finally accepted as the truth. The purpose of the author of this history is to separate fiction from fact, to present in a simple and succinct manner those facts which will show the place of Putnam county among its sister counties in the state; to preserve for future generations the story of the privations and hardships which confronted our good forefathers four score years ago.

The writer, many years ago, had collected a lot of mis-information as to the early events of this part of the state, and especially to that part now comprehended within Putnam county. This supposed historical material was submitted to a pioneer of the county, a man who was in every way qualified to pass on its truthfulness. To my great surprise, he informed the writer that in most instances the supposed facts were nothing more than romantic tales, interesting, but with no basis of truth. Thus the author of this history was deprived of what he had considered a large amount of valuable historical data, but he is to be congratulated in discovering the difficulty of getting exact historical information. This history is an attempt to present the real truth about the growth of the county, and every event which would not stand the historical test has been discarded. Thus, many tales of romance are necessarily omitted; many supposed facts have been found to be without the semblance of truth, and hence find no place in this volume.

This history will, to some such a review of the origin and development of the county as will enable you to see for our children and our children's children to appreciate the toils and labors of those who have made this county

—

what it is today. We are proud of our towns, our broad, cultivated fields, our schools and churches, our beautiful homes. We take a pardonable pride in living in a county where peace and harmony dwell, where the people enjoy those blessings vouchsafed to them by the laws of an indulgent nation.

In order that the present generation may breathe the same spirit which animated the pioneers of this county, it is necessary to go back to the time when the Indian roamed this part of the state; when the beaver plied his trade, unmolested by the white man, when the untut forest and undrained swamps presented more terrors than the wild inhabitants thereof. It will be necessary to tell of the time when France had control of this territory and of the time when England drove the French from this country. The Revolutionary War is a part of the history of Putnam county and it comes in for a share of attention; the War of 1812 is still closer allied with the history of the county and it is briefly noticed.

We have tried to recite these facts so that our coming generations may become familiar with them and thereby have a clearer understanding of the sterling men and women who have preceded them. May this presentation imbue us with a greater love for our county, our state and our nation, and may we highly resolve that we will strive to do our share toward making Putnam county the best county in the state. With this introduction, we submit that which follows.

THE EDITOR.

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Putnam county, Ohio, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the operations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Putnam county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded the undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gathering of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Putnam County, Ohio," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan contemplated in the preface. Every geographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error or defect, if there be one, is probably due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confidence that our effort to please will fully meet the approval of the public is ours.

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS

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HISTORICAL

CHAPTER I.

RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The first white men to set foot upon the Northwest Territory were French traders and missionaries under the leadership of La Salle. This was about the year 1670 and subsequent discoveries and explorations in this region by the French gave that nation practically undisputed possession of all the territory organized in 1787 as the Northwest Territory. It is true that the English colonies of Virginia, Connecticut and Massachusetts claimed that their charters extended their grants westward to the Mississippi river. However, France claimed this territory and successfully maintained possession of it until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. At that time the treaty of Paris transferred all of the French claims east of the Mississippi river to England, as well as all claims of France to territory on the mainland of North America. For the next twenty years the Northwest Territory was under the undisputed control of England, but became a part of the United States by the treaty which terminated the Revolutionary War in 1783. Thus the flags of three nations have floated over the territory now comprehended within the present state of Ohio—the tri color of France, the union jack of England and the stars and stripes of the United States.

History will record the fact that there was another nation, however, which claimed possession of this territory and, while the Indians can hardly be called a nation, yet they made a gallant fight to retain their hunting grounds. The real owners of this territory struggled against heavy odds to maintain their supremacy and it was not until the battle of Tippecanoe, in the fall of 1811, that the Indians gave up the unequal struggle. Tecumseh, the Washington of his race, fought fiercely to save this territory for his people, but the white man finally overwhelmed him, and "Lo, the poor Indian" was pushed westward across the Mississippi. The history of the Northwest

territory is full of the bitter fights which the Indian waged in trying to drive the white man out, and the defeat which the Indians inflicted on General St. Clair on November 4, 1792, will go down in the annals of American history as the worst defeat which an American army ever suffered at the hands of the Indians. The greatest battle which has ever been fought in the United States against the Indians occurred in the state of Ohio. This was the battle of Fallen Timbers and occurred August 20, 1794, the scene of the battle being within the present county of Delaware. After the close of the Revolutionary War the Indians, incited by the British, caused the settlers in the northwest territory continued trouble and defeated every expedition sent against them previous to their defeat by Gen. Anthony Wayne at the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Although there was some trouble with the Indians after this time, they never offered serious resistance after this moral and final defeat until the fall of 1830, when Gen. William Henry Harrison completely routed them at the battle of Tippecanoe.

Territory Northwest of the Ohio (1770-1754)

Ohio was the first state created out of the old Northwest Territory, although Indiana had been previously organized as a territory. When the land comprehended within the Northwest Territory was discovered by the French under La Salle about 1670, it was a battle ground of various Indian tribes, although the Iroquo, who were located along the shores of Lake Erie, were the only ones with a more or less definite territory. From 1670 to 1763, the close of the French and Indian War, the French were in possession of this territory and established their claim in a positive manner by extensive exploration and summer settlements. The chief centers of French settlement were at Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Fort Crevecoeur and at several missionary stations among the shores of the great lakes. The French did not succeed in doing this without incurring the hostility of the Iroquois Indians, a bitter enemy which was brought about chiefly because the French helped the Shawnees, Wabandos and Miami to drive the Iroquois out of the territory west of the Muskingum river in Ohio.

It must not be forgotten that the English also had claim to the Northwest Territory, basing their claim on the discoveries of the Cabots and the subsequent charters of Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut. These charters extended the limits of these three colonies westward to the Pacific Ocean, although, as a matter of fact, none of the three colonies made a settlement west of the Alleghenies until after the Revolutionary War. New York,

sought to stretch her claim to territory west of the Alleghenies in 1761, by getting from the Indians, the bitter enemies of the French, a grant to the territory from which the French and their Indian allies had previously expelled them. Although this grant was renewed in 1726 and again confirmed in 1744, it gave New York only a nominal claim and one which was never recognized by the French in any way.

English traders from Pennsylvania and Virginia began in 1730 to pay more attention to the claims of their country west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio river. When their activities reached the ears of the French the governor of French Canada sent Colonel de Bienville up and down the Ohio and the rivers and streams running into it from the north and took formal possession of the territory by planting lead plates at the mouth of every river and stream of any importance. This peculiar method of the French in seeking to establish their claims occurred in the year 1739 and opened the eyes of England to the necessity of taking some immediate action. George II, the King of England at the time, at once granted a charter for the first Ohio Company—there were two others by the same name later organized by a group of London merchants and enterprising Virginians, and the company at once proceeded to formulate plans to secure possession of the territory north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi. Christopher Gist was sent down the Ohio river in 1750 to explore the country as far west as the mouth of the Seneca river, and made several treaties with the Indians. Things were now rapidly approaching a crisis, and it was soon evident that there would be a struggle of arms between England and France for the disputed region. In 1754 the English started to build a fort at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, on the site of the present city of Pittsburgh, but before the fort was completed the French appeared on the scene, drove the English away, and finished the fort which had been begun.

THE FRENCH CRISIS, 1754-1763.

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The crisis had finally come. The struggle which followed between the two nations ultimately resulted in the expulsion of the French from the mainland of America as well as from the immediate territory in dispute. The war is known in America as the French and Indian War and in the history of the world as the Seven Years' War, the latter designation being due to the fact that it lasted that length of time. The struggle developed into a worldwide conflict and the two nations fought over three continents, America, Europe and Asia. It is not within the province of this resume of

the history of Ohio to go into the details of this memorable struggle. It is sufficient for the purpose at hand to state that the treaty of Paris, which terminated the war in 1763, left France without any of her former possessions on the mainland of America.

PONTIAC'S CONSPIRACY (1763-64).

With the English in control of America east of the Mississippi river and the French regime forever ended, the Indians next command the attention of the historian who deals with the Northwest Territory. The French were undoubtedly responsible for stirring up their former Indian allies and Pontiac's conspiracy must be credited to the influence of that nation. This formidable uprising was successfully overthrown by Henry Bouquet, who led an expedition in 1764 into the present state of Ohio and compelled the Wyandots, Delawares and Shawnees to sue for peace.

NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND QUEBEC ACT.

From 1764 to 1774, no events of particular importance occurred within the territory north of the Ohio river, but in the latter year (June 22, 1774), England, then at the breaking point with the colonies, passed the Quebec act, which attached this territory to the province of Quebec for administrative purposes. This intensified the feeling of resentment which the colonies bore against their mother country and is given specific mention in their list of grievances which they enumerated in their Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War came on at once and this act, of course, was never put into execution.

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD (1775-83).

During the War for Independence (1775-1783), the various states with claims to western lands agreed with the Continental Congress to surrender their claims to the national government. In fact, the Articles of Confederation were not signed until all of the states had agreed to do this and Maryland withheld her assent to the articles until March 1, 1780, on this account. In accordance with this agreement New York ceded her claim to the United States in 1780, Virginia in 1781, Massachusetts in 1785 and Connecticut in 1786, although the latter state accepted a one hundred and twenty mile strip of three million five hundred thousand acres bordering on Lake Erie. This

strip was formally relinquished in 1800, with the understanding that the United States would guarantee the titles already issued by that state. Virginia was also allowed a reservation, known as the Virginia Military District, which lay between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, the same being for distribution among her Revolutionary veterans. There is one other fact which should be mentioned in connection with the territory north of the Ohio in the Revolutionary period. This was the memorable conquest of the territory by Gen. George Rogers Clark. During the years 1778 and 1779, this redoubtable leader captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes and thereby drove the English out of the Northwest Territory. It is probable that this notable campaign secured this territory for the Americans and that without it we would not have had it included in our possessions in the treaty which closed the Revolutionary War.

FIRST SURVEYS AND EARLY SETTLERS.

The next period in the history of the territory north of the Ohio begins with the passage of a congressional act (May 20, 1785), which provided for the present system of land surveys into townships six miles square. As soon as this was put into operation, settlers—and most Revolutionary soldiers—began to pour into the newly surveyed territory. A second Ohio Company was organized in the spring of 1786, made up chiefly of Revolutionary officers and soldiers from New England, and this company proposed to establish a state somewhere between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. At this juncture Congress realized that definite steps should be made at once for some kind of government over this extensive territory, a territory which now includes the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and about a third of Minnesota. Various plans were proposed in Congress and most of the sessions of 1786 and the first half of 1787 were consumed in trying to formulate a suitable form of government for the extensive territory. The result of all these deliberations resulted in the famous Ordinance of 1787, which was finally passed on July 13, 1787.

ORDINANCE OF 1787.

There have been many volumes written about this instrument of government and to this day there is a difference of opinion as to who was its author. The present article can do no more than merely sketch its outline and set forth the main provisions. It was intended to provide only a tem-

potative government and to give until such time as the population of the territory would warrant the creation of a state with the same rights and privileges which the thirteen original states enjoyed. It stipulated that not less than three nor more than five states should ever be created out of the whole territory and the first main number was finally regained, although it was not until 1858 that the last state, Wisconsin, was admitted to the union. The third article, "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," thus given these five states the basis for their excellent system of public schools, state normal colleges and universities. Probably the most widely discussed article was the sixth, which provided that slavery and involuntary servitude should never be permitted within the territory and be the rule of the word "forever" made the territory free soil all time. It is interesting to note in this connection that both Indiana and Illinois later repudiated their action to the United States to have this ordinance annulled, but every petition from the two states was rejected by Congress in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance.

FIRST STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE

The ordinance contemplated two grades of territorial government. During the operation of the first grade of government the governor, the secretary and the three judges provided by the ordinance were sole appointed by Congress, and the governor immediately to appoint "not more than six and not less than three" county and township officers he had deemed necessary for the preservation of the peace and good will of the same. After the second grade of government was constituted a statute provided for the appointment of the officers out of the land or Congress, and placed it in the hands of the President of the United States. All executive authority was given to the governor, all judicial authority to the three judges, while the governor and judges, in joint session, constituted the legislative body. This means that during the first stage of territorial government the people had absolutely no voice in the affairs of government and this state of affairs lasted until 1799, a period of twelve years.

SECOND STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE

The second grade of government in the territory was to be in which, at the moment was noted that there were still no free schools and free roads

inhabitants of the age of twenty-one and above. The main difference between the first and second stages of territorial government lay in the fact that the legislative functions were taken from the governor and judges and given to a "general assembly or legislature." The ordinance provided for the election of one representative for each five hundred free male inhabitants, the tenure of the office to be two years. While the members of the lower house were to be elected by the qualified voters of the territory, the upper house, to consist of five members, were to be appointed by Congress in a somewhat complicated manner. The house of representatives were to select thirteen and two extra names were to be sent to Congress, and out of this number five were to be selected by Congress. This provision, like the appointment of the governor, was later changed so as to make the upper house the appointees of the President of the United States. The lieutenants selected were called controllers and held office for two years.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

The first governor of the newly organized territory was Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a French soldier of the Revolution, who was appointed on October 3, 1787, and held office to replace Hamilton on the 1st of the following February. He held office until November 22, 1800, when he was dismissed by President Jefferson "for the disorganizing spirit, and tendency of every example, and more the rules of conduct enjoined by his public station, as displayed in his address to the convention." The governor's duties were performed by Francis Pickens, Charles W. Byrd, until March 1, 1803, when the state officials took their office. The first judges appointed were Samuel Holden Parsons, Isaac Mitchell Vannum and John Armstrong. Before the time came for the judges to qualify, Armstrong resigned and John Cleves Symmes was appointed in his place. The first secretary was Winthrop Sargent, who held the position until he was appointed governor of Mississippi Territory by the President on May 2, 1798. Sargent was succeeded by William Henry Harrison, who was appointed by the President on June 26, 1798, and confirmed by the Senate two days later. Harrison was later elected as the first delegate of the organized Northwest Territory to Congress and the President then appointed Charles Willing Byrd as secretary of the Territory, Byrd's appointment being confirmed by the Senate on December 31, 1799.

REPRESENTATIVE STAGE OF GOVERNMENT (1799-1803).

The Northwest Territory remained under the government of the first stage until September 10, 1799, when it formally advanced to the second or representative stage. In the summer of 1798 Governor St. Clair had ascertained that the territory had a population of at least five thousand free male inhabitants and, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, was ready to make the change in its form of government. On October 29, 1798, the governor issued a proclamation to the qualified voters of the territory directing them to choose members for the lower house of the Territorial Legislature at an election to be held on the third Monday of the following December. The twenty-two members so elected met on January 10, 1799, and, pursuant to the provisions of the ordinance, selected the ten men from whom the President of the United States later chose five for the Legislative Council. They then adjourned to meet on September 10, 1799, but since there was not a quorum on that day they held adjourned sessions until the 23rd, at which time a quorum was present.

At the time the change in the form of government went into effect there were only nine counties in the whole territory. These counties had been organized either by the governor or his secretary. The following table gives the nine counties organized before 1799, with the dates of their organization and the number of legislators proportioned to each by the governor.

County.	Date of organization.	Number of representatives
Washington	July 27, 1788	7
Hamilton	January 3, 1799	7
St. Clair	April 27, 1799	4
Litch	June 20, 1799	4
Randolph	October 5, 1795	4
Wayne	August 6, 1796	3
Adams	July 10, 1797	2
Jefferson	July 29, 1797	4
Ross	August 20, 1798	4

FIRST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY

The twenty-two representatives and five councillors were the first representative body to meet in the Northwest Territory and they represented a

constituency scattered over a territory of more than two hundred and sixty-five thousand square miles, an area greater than Germany or France, or even Austria-Hungary. It would be interesting to tell something of the deliberations of these twenty-seven sterling pioneers, but the limits of the present article forbid. It is necessary, however, to make mention of one important thing which they did in view of the fact that it throws much light on the subsequent history of the Northwest Territory.

DIVISION OF 1800

The Legislature was authorized to elect a delegate to Congress and two candidates for the honor presented their names to the Legislature, William Henry Harrison and Arthur St. Clair, Jr., the son of the governor. The Legislature, by a joint ballot on October 3, 1799, elected Harrison by a vote of eleven to ten. The defeat of his son undoubtedly had considerable to do with the subsequent estrangement which arose between the governor and his legislature and incidentally hastened the division of the Northwest Territory. Within two years from the time the territory had advanced to the second stage of government the division had taken place. On May 7, 1800, Congress passed an act dividing the Northwest Territory by a line drawn from the mouth of the Kentucky river to Fort Recovery, in Mercer county, Ohio, and thence due north, to the boundary line between the United States and Canada. Governor St. Clair favored the division because he thought it would delay the organization of a state and thus give him a longer lease on his position, but he did not favor the division as finally determined. He was constantly growing in disfavor with the people on account of his overbearing manner and he felt that he would get rid of some of his bitterest enemies if the western inhabitants were set off into a new territory. However, the merit of the credit for the division must be given to Harrison, who, as a delegate to Congress, was in a position to have the most influence. Harrison also was satisfied that in case a new territory should be formed he would be appointed its first governor and he was not disappointed. The territory west of the line above mentioned was immediately organized and designated as Indiana Territory, while the eastern portion retained the existing government and the old name, Northwest Territory. It is frequently overlooked that the Northwest Territory existed in fact and in name up until March 1, 1803.

CENSUS OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY IN 1800.

The division of 1800 left the Northwest Territory with only about one third of its original area. The census of the territory taken by the United States government in 1800 showed it to have a total population of forty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-five, which fell short by about fifteen thousand of being sufficient for the creation of a state as provided by the Ordinance of 1787, which fixed the minimum population at sixty thousand. The counties left in the Northwest Territory, with their respective population, are given in the appended table, all of which were within the present state of Ohio except Wayne.

Adams	3,432
Harrison	1,993
Jefferson	8,766
Ross	8,540
Frambrell	1,302
Washington	5,417
Wayne	3,906

Total

The population as classified by the census with respect to age and sex is interesting and peculiarly so in showing that considerably more than one-third of the total population were children under ten years of age.

	Males.	Females.
Whites up to ten years of age	9,392	8,644
White from ten to sixteen	3,947	3,353
Whites from sixteen to twenty-six	10,390	3,866
Whites from twenty-six to forty-six	18,333	3,342
White forty-six and upward	1,988	1,398
Total	24,433	20,595
Total of both sexes	45,028	
Total of other persons, not Indian	337	
Grand total	45,365	

A digression is necessary at this point in order to trace the growth of settlement of the territory now within the present state of Ohio up to 1803, when it was admitted to the Union as a state. Marietta, founded in July, 1788, by the Ohio Company, is the oldest permanent settlement in the state. A number of New Jersey settlers were organized by John Cleves Symmes, and Symmes succeeded in securing a grant of land from Congress in 1787-1788 containing two hundred forty eight thousand five hundred and forty acres, located between the Great Miami and Little Miami rivers. The grant of land is known in Ohio history as the Symmes purchase and contained the elements of Columbus (1788) and Cincinnati (1789), although the latter place was not christened Cincinnati. The man who devised the name exercised no small amount of ingenuity in its manufacture. The proposed settlement happened to be located at the mouth of the Licking river and this circumstance, with a little knowledge of Latin and a vivid imagination, was responsible for this hybrid word. The Latin word for town is "villa," which is Anglicized into "valley," the Latin for opposite is "anti" and for mouth "ori." There three Latin words account for the completed word, with the exception of the "C," and this letter is the initial letter of the name. To make the word clear it must be read backward, syllable at a time—thus Locanti-alle, which being interpreted means the town opposite the mouth of the Licking.

The Virginia Military Institute, to which reference has been made, was started largely by people from that state. The Connecticut Reserve, Long Lake Lake, attracted many settlers from that state, among whom should be mentioned Moses Cleaveland, who, in 1796, founded the city which bears his name. The northern part of the state did not seem to fill up rapidly until after 1832, when the Ohio Erie canal was opened for traffic. There have been estimates running from fifteen to twenty thousand as to the number of people who drifted down the Ohio river within a year after the Ordinance of 1787 went into effect.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION, 1788-1800

It has already been noted that there were nine counties within the Northwest Territory in 1799, when it advanced to the second stage of territorial government. According to the provisions of the ordinance, the creation of new counties was in the hands of the governor, although after the federal confirmation vote in 1800 the secretary was also given the same power. Adams and Wadsworth were started by Governor Vanthrop Put-

gent according to this provision. The state of Ohio is now divided into eighty-eight counties, ten of which were created before the state was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803. The counties organized by Governor St. Clair, or his secretary, from 1788, when Washington county was organized, up to 1803, when the state was admitted to the Union, are ten in number: Washington, Hamilton, Wayne, Adams, Jefferson, Ross, Trumbull, Clermont, Fairfield and Belmont. The dates of the creation of the first six have already been given. Trumbull county was organized on July 10, 1800; Clermont and Fairfield, December 9, 1800; Belmont, September 7, 1801. Between the years 1803 and 1810, when Fayette county was organized, there were no less than twenty-four counties organized within the state of Ohio. The first session of the General Assembly of the state organized eight counties, as follows: Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Scioto, Warren, Butler, Montgomery and Columbiana. Muskingum started its independent existence on the first day of March, 1804. In 1805 there were four counties created, Champaign, Athens, Geauga and Highland. The session of 1807 added four more to the rapidly growing state, Miami, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga and Portage. The following year saw six new counties opened for entry, Delaware, Stark, Tuscarawas, Preble, Knox and Licking. One county, Huron, was created in 1809. The five counties organized in 1810 included Fayette, Pickaway, Guernsey, Clinton and Madison. This makes a total of thirty-nine counties up to and including the year 1810. In this year Cincinnati, the largest city of the state, boasted of a population of two thousand three hundred and twenty

INDIAN WARS (1787-1803)

The period from 1787 to 1803 in the Northwest Territory was marked by several bitter conflicts with the Indians. Just as at the close of the French and Indian War had the French stirred up the Indians against the Americans, so at the close of the Revolutionary War did the English do the same thing. This inciting of the Indians by the British was one of the causes of the War of 1812, a struggle which has very appropriately been called the second War for Independence. The various uprisings of the Indians up to 1794 retarded the influx of settlers and was a constant menace to those who did venture into the territory. Three distinct campaigns were waged against the Indians during this period before they were finally subdued. The first campaign was under the command of Gen. Josiah Harmar, 1790, and resulted in a decisive defeat for the whites. The second expedition was under the leadership of Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the governor of the Territory, and

was marked by one of the worst defeats ever suffered by an American army at the hands of the Indians. A lack of knowledge of Indian methods of warfare, combined with reckless mismanagement, sufficiently accounts for both disasters. It remained for Gen. Anthony Wayne, the "Mad Anthony" of Revolutionary fame, to bring the Indians to terms. The battle which closed his campaign against the Indians is known as the battle of Fallen Timbers and was fought on August 20, 1794. The scene of the battle lies along the Maumee river within the limits of the present county of Defiance. This crushing defeat of the Indians, a rout in which they had lost twelve out of thirteen chiefs, was so complete that the Indians were glad to sue for peace. On June 10, 1795, delegates from the various Indian tribes, headed by their chiefs, met at Greenville, Ohio, to formulate a treaty. The United States government appointed General Wayne as commissioner plenipotentiary to draft the treaty and, after nearly two months of bickering, a treaty was drawn up on August 3, 1795. It was signed by General Wayne on behalf of the United States and by ninety chiefs and the delegates of twelve interested tribes. The treaty was faithfully kept by the Indians and ever afterwards Little Turtle, the real leader of the Indians, was a true friend of the whites. It may be said that this battle of Fallen Timbers was the most important battle fought in America between the close of the War for Independence and the battle of Tippecanoe in the fall of 1811. To General Anthony Wayne will remain the honor of opening the way for permanent settlement of the Northwest Territory.

THE FORMATION OF A NEW STATE.

The three years intervening between the creation of Indiana Territory (May 7, 1800) and the admission of Ohio to the Union (March 1, 1803), are marked by an acrimonious struggle during which Governor St. Clair was constantly growing in disfavor with his Legislature and the great mass of the people of the territory. The Legislature wanted a state formed as soon as possible and succeeded in getting Congress to pass an act, April 30, 1802, authorizing the calling of a constitutional convention. This act established the limits of the proposed new state as follows: "That part of the Northwest Territory bounded east by Pennsylvania, south by the Ohio river, west by a line drawn from the mouth of the Big Miami river due north to an east and west line passing through the south extremity of Lake Michigan, and by this line and the Canada line through Lake Erie to the west line of Pennsylvania." Since these boundaries omitted the eastern half of the present

state of Michigan which had been left a part of the Northwest Territory, the division of May 20, 1800, it was deemed as a raid by the Federalists in the ceded territory. However, it is very plain that Congress carried out the intent of the Ordinance of 1787 by their act and the charge of political trickery fails of substantiation in the light of the specific provisions therein set forth regarding the creation of states out of the Northwest Territory. The enabling act provided for an election of delegates to the constitutional convention to be held in September of the same year (1800), the delegates to meet at Chillicothe on the first Monday of the following November. The thirteen delegates met at the appointed time and by a vote of ten to two, the majority vote being cast by Ephraim Cutler, decided to proceed at once to the organization of a state government and the formation of a constitution. The convention was in session until November 20th, at which time it had completed the first constitution for the state and the one which later supplanted it, a final constitution was adopted.

WHICH WAS OFFICIALED TO THE UNION?

It is interesting to note the difficulty which Ohio historians have had in trying to fix upon the date which marks the formal admission of the state to the Union.

The natal day of Ohio has given rise to more dispute than the natal day of any other state in the Union. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that Congress never passed an act formally admitting Ohio to the Union. There have been no less than five dates assigned by as many different authorities and each group of historians substantiate their claim by the citation of facts. The five dates are as follows: April 30, 1802; November 29, 1802; February 20, 1803; March 1, 1803; March 3, 1803.

The first date (April 30, 1802) has for its chief sponsor the editor of the "United States Statutes at Large." This date is not tenable at all, since the territorial judges were in office for several months after this date and were by the congressional act of February 21, 1803, paid their full salaries up to March 1, 1803. The second date (November 29, 1802) is advanced by Hickey in his volume, "The Constitution" on the ground that the constitution was adopted on that day. The third date (February 19, 1803) has been held by several good authorities, notably, Caleb Atwater, in his "Political Manual," G. W. Pascal, in his "Annotated Constitution," and the late president of Marietta College, I. W. Andrews. It was upon this date that Congress passed an act to "provide for the due execution of the laws of the

United States within the state of Ohio." This would seem to indicate that Congress recognized February 19, 1803, as the date of the admission of Ohio to the Union, but when it is recalled that Congress had not yet appointed the necessary judicial officers it must be concluded that this is not the proper date. The fourth date, March 1, 1803, is now recognized officially as the actual day on which Ohio formally entered the Union, although it was an act of Congress passed nearly three years later which definitely settled this fact. The question arose in 1806 in Congress regarding the payment of the territorial officers and the act of February 21st of that year ordered that the governor and judges be paid for their services up to March 1, 1803. There can be no question but that Congress placed its official approval on this date as being the first day of Ohio's existence as a separate state. The truth and first date (March 3, 1803) was advanced as the real date of the admission of the state, for the reason that on this date Congress gave its approval to certain changes in the constitution of the state which had been adopted on November 29, 1802. These changes related to the disposition of certain school lands within the state and were of minor importance and in no sense advocated any radical changes in the constitution of the state. However, on March 3, 1803, the state had been in full operation for a space of three days and exercising all the rights and privileges of a state; the government had been installed, the legislature was in session and the various state officials were discharging their duties in accordance with the constitution. Thus it must be concluded from all available evidence that Ohio was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803.

CAPITAL OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND OHIO

The capital of the Northwest Territory was located within the present borders of Ohio during the whole existence of the Territory both before and after the admission of the Territory in 1800. When the Ordinance of 1787 was formally put into operation, on July 17, 1788, the capital was established at Marietta, the name being chosen by the directors of the Ohio Company on July 2, 1788. The name of Marietta was selected in honor of the French Queen Marie Antoinette, compounded by a curious combination of the first and last syllables of her name.

The capital remained at Marietta until 1800, when it was moved by the congressional act of May 7th of that year to Chillicothe and by the constitution adopted in 1802 the capital was to remain there at least until 1808. The Legislature of 1809 moved the capital to Zanesville until such time as a

permanent site should be selected. The Legislature at the same time that it moved the capital to Zanesville appointed commissioners to report at the following session "the most eligible and central spot for permanently establishing it." The approaching War of 1812 made it necessary to take the capital back to Chillicothe, where there was less danger from attack by the Indians and British. The commissioners appointed by the Legislature of 1809 selected a small village by the name of Dublin, on the Scioto, about fourteen miles north of Columbus, but the Legislature refused to abide by their choice.

The capital was permanently located at Columbus by the legislative act of February 14, 1812, although no less than nine different sites were under consideration before the final decision was made. The act selecting the site did not choose a name for the proposed city and this honor belongs to Joseph Foos, the senator from Franklin county, who had been largely instrumental in the selection of the Legislature. At that time there was a solitary log cabin on the site and the whole tract was covered with a dense forest. The act of February 17, 1810, formally designated Columbus as the capital "from and after the second Tuesday of October, 1810." During the War of 1812, and until the buildings were ready at Columbus, the capital remained at Chillicothe.

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF OHIO.

The state of Ohio has had four constitutional conventions: 1802, 1850-51, 1873-74 and 1912. The constitution of 1802, it is interesting to note, was never submitted to the people for ratification. Between the adoption of the first and second constitutions there was an effort to hold a constitutional convention. A resolution, passed December 25, 1818, authorized a vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention, but at the election which was subsequently held it was decided adversely by a vote of 29,315 to 6,987.

The main facts concerning the second constitutional convention may be briefly summed up as follows: The Legislature on October 9, 1849, authorized a vote on the question of holding a convention and the voters of the state cast a majority of 94,531 in favor of the constitutional convention. The vote stood 115,608 for and 51,107 against the convention. On April 1, 1850, the one hundred and eight delegates were elected and on the 6th of the following May they met at Columbus. The convention was in continuous session until July 9, 1850, and then, not having yet completed their deliberations, adjourned to meet again on December 2, 1850. The second session continued to hold daily meetings until March 10, 1851, when it finally concluded its labors after having spent a total of one hundred and sixty three

days. The constitution was submitted to the people of the state on June 17, 1851, and adopted by a vote of 128,564 to 109,270.

An attempt to adopt a new constitution was made in 1874, but failed. On March 30, 1871, the Legislature provided for a vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention and at an election held October 10, 1871, it was decided, by a vote of 267,618 to 104,231, to hold such a convention. On April 6, 1873, the one hundred and five delegates to the convention were elected and on the 13th of the following month they met and organized. The convention continued in session from that date until August 8th, and, after a recess, met on December 2d and remained in continuous session until May 15th of the following year. The convention held daily sessions for one hundred and eighty days, one of the longest constitutional conventions ever held in the United States. With all this deliberation it would seem that a satisfactory constitution could have been framed, but the voters of the state, on August 18, 1874, rejected it by a vote of 250,169 to 162,885. This expensive attempt to make a new constitution was sufficient to thwart all efforts along this line for several years. However, the changes in economic, social and industrial conditions became more pronounced year by year, and on March 9, 1900, the Legislature submitted the question of holding a constitutional convention. At an election held on November 8, 1900, it was decided, by a vote of 693,263 to 67,718, to select delegates to a constitutional convention. The convention met on the second Tuesday of January, 1901, and remained in session until June 8, 1902, when it finally concluded its labors. This convention submitted forty-two changes in the existing constitution and on September 3d of the same year the qualified voters of the state accepted all but eight of the proposed amendments. The eight amendments lost are as follows: Suffrage, good roads, advertising, injunctions, capital punishment, voting machines, eligibility of women and elimination of word "white" from the constitution. The amendments which carried by various majorities concerned the following subjects: Jury system, depositions, suits, wrongful death, initiative and referendum, investigations, limiting veto, mechanics' lien, welfare, compensations, conservation of natural resources, eight-hour day, removal of officials, expert testimony, land titles, prison contracts, extra sessions, reform of the judiciary, county judges, justices, school boards, school commissioners, insurance (holding of board of public works, taxation, corporations, double liability, state printing, civil service, submission of amendments, home rule for cities, schedule and license. The debt was the most bitter one worded sentence and the initiative and referendum. The

vote on the first proposition was 249,420 to 336,875, and was defeated largely on account of the activity of the liquor interests. The initiative and referendum carried by a vote of 312,592 to 231,312, despite the fact that every ruse and trick known to professional politicians was used to compass its defeat.

On November 3, 1914, there were four constitutional amendments submitted to the voters of the state and the two which caused the most discussion, viz., woman's suffrage and prohibition, were defeated. The other two amendments related to home rule for cities and the regulation of the liquor traffic.

MILITARY RECORD.

The state of Ohio has had its citizens in four wars in which the United States has engaged since 1803; the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. It is very unfortunate that the public records of Ohio contain no list of the soldiers of the state who fought in the War of 1812, although large numbers of the citizens served in the field under various commanders. The records as regards the Mexican War are fairly complete and show that a total of 5,530 men were sent to the front by the state. When the call was first issued for troops, Ohio was called upon to furnish three thousand men and within a short time forty companies reported at Camp Washington, near Cincinnati. Thirty companies were formed into three regiments, commanded by Cols. Alexander M. Mitchell, George W. Morgan and Samuel R. Curtis. The troops were sent down the Ohio in July, 1846, and joined General Taylor on the Rio Grande. In 1847 additional troops were sent from Ohio, but none of them saw any active service. The regiment under the command of Mitchell was the only one to take part in a battle, and it distinguished itself in the storming of Monterey. The state of Ohio suffered a severe loss in the death of Brig.-Gen. Thomas L. Hamner, one of the most prominent men of the state at that time. He was a member of Congress at the time of the opening of the war, but left Congress, enlisted as a private and soon after received a commission as a lieutenant-general. He was in the operations around Monterey and shortly afterward was stricken with a fatal disease and died on December 30, 1846.

The part which Ohio played in the Civil War can be only briefly noticed in this resume of the history of the state. That Ohio did her full duty as a loyal member of the Union is a fact which is known to everyone. Within twenty-four hours from the time the President issued his first call for troops on April 16, 1860, the Legislature had passed a bill appropriating one million dollars for military purposes. Two days later (April 16th) two regiments

of Ohio troops left by rail for Washington. The ease and quickness with which this was accomplished is an indication of the intense loyalty of the state. It is a glowing tribute to the state of Ohio that although there were only thirteen regiments assigned to the state under the first call, enough men presented themselves to make more than seventy regiments. This outburst of loyalty was such that the Legislature authorized the governor to accept ten more regiments, and the state itself equipped and paid these additional men and enrolled them for the defense of the state. By October 1, 1862, the state had enrolled militia to the number of 125,117 and the state sent out for duty outside of its own limits 310,650 men, although their quota was only 306,322. This gives the state the honor of furnishing more than one-tenth of the total enlistment of men in the Northern army. In number of troops furnished, Ohio was third among all the states and in losses was second. The soldiers were a part of every army, participated in every campaign, fought in every important battle from Bull Run to Bentonville, from Sabine Cross Roads to Gettysburg. No less than forty three Ohio regiments of infantry were present at the sanguinary engagement at Missionary Ridge and they were in like proportion at the other battles. Twelve thousand brave Ohio men were killed or mortally wounded and at least forty thousand received wounds of some kind. Thirteen thousand died of disease in the service and twenty thousand were discharged for disability arising from wounds or disease. These figures give some idea of the prominent part which the soldiers of Ohio played in the great struggle.

It is pertinent to say something of the activity of the anti-war party in the state during the time the struggle was going on. In the summer of 1863 the Democrats of the state nominated Vallandigham for governor, a man who was very outspoken in his denunciation of the war, but John Brough, a staunch Union man, had no difficulty in defeating him for the governorship. The part which Vallandigham subsequently played in the history of his state is sufficient proof that it was for the best interests of the state that he was defeated.

The Spanish American War of 1898 has been the last one in which troops from Ohio have taken any part. Following the call of President McKinley for seventy-five thousand volunteers, Ohio had no difficulty in filling their quota. This war opened officially on April 25th and formally came to an end by the signing of a protocol on August 12th. The battles of Manila Bay, Santiago, El Caney and San Juan Hill were the only engagements of importance. According to the treaty of Paris, which was signed December 10, 1898, Spain relinquished her sovereignty over Cuba, ceded to

the United States Porto Rico and her other West India possessions and the Island of Guam, and transferred her rights in the Philippines for a sum of twenty million dollars paid to her for public works and improvements which belonged to the Spanish government.

THE LAND GRANTS OF OHIO.

Ohio was the first state organized out of the territory north of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi river and was divided into several grants, reservations and military districts of one kind and another. These various divisions have led to an endless amount of confusion in the surveying of lands in the state and in many cases in expensive litigation. A brief summary of each one of these divisions is here presented.

THE OHIO LAND COMPANY PURCHASE.

This company was organized March 3, 1786, at Boston and on October 27, 1787, bought from the government 1,700,000 acres and received, outside of the portions reserved by Congress, 1,061,285 acres. Congress set aside the sixteenth section of each township for school purposes; the twenty-ninth section for religious purposes and the eighth, eleventh and twenty-sixth for such purposes as Congress might determine in the future. This tract included what was known as the "Donation Tract" of 100,000 acres, the same now being the northern part of Washington county. For this massive tract the Ohio Company paid the government sixty-six and two-thirds cents an acre.

THE FRENCH GRANT.

The secretary of the United Board of Treasury, William Duar, was instrumental in helping the Ohio Company to secure from Congress the option on 300,000 acres lying west and north of the original purchase of this company. The title to this tract remained in the government and out of this peculiar arrangement arose the Scioto Company, which was organized in France. Hundreds of debilitated Frenchmen invested their money in this tract and received cloudy titles which caused no little trouble in later years. A large number of these French settlers landed on the banks of the Ohio on October 20, 1790, on the site of the present city of Gallipolis, which they founded and named. The Scioto Company was incompetently managed, became insolvent and the land on which the unfortunate Frenchmen had settled

reverted to the United States government. While the most of them remained, there were many of them who went on farther west and located where other French settlers had previously established themselves. The United States treated the remaining French settlers in a very generous manner and by the act of March 3, 1795, granted them 24,000 acres on the Ohio river within the present limits of Scioto county.

THE SYMMES PURCHASE

In 1788 John Cleves Symmes and other men of New Jersey organized the Miami Company and bought from the United States 4,000,000 acres, for which the company agreed to pay sixty-six and two thirds cents an acre. As in the case of the purchase of the Ohio Company, the government made reservations of school and church sections, as well as three additional sections for general purposes. The Miami Company later found out that they had contracted for more than they could pay and the records show that they received and paid for only 311,682 acres in the southern part of the tract. It is interesting to note that the present site of Cincinnati was sold by the company to one Matthias Deiman for the sum of five hundred dollars. The city of Cincinnati was founded the following year and the monument in that city on Third street, between Broadway and Ludlow streets, marks the location of Fort Washington, which was erected to protect the infant city from the Indians.

CONNECTICUT RESERVE

In the year 1786 the state of Connecticut relinquished all her claims to lands in the Northwest Territory with the exception of a strip of 3,500,000 acres bordering Lake Erie. This immense tract became an integral part of Ohio as the result of two separate acts on the part of Connecticut. The state granted 50,000 acres in the western part of the reserve in 1792 to those citizens of Connecticut whose homes had been burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. The towns of Norwalk, Greenwich, Fairfield, New Haven and New London furnished the greater part of the eighteen hundred who took advantage of the generous offer of their state. The land was surveyed into townships of nine miles square and divided among the settlers in proportion to their losses. In 1795 the Connecticut Land Company purchased the rest of the reserve, amounting to 3,000,000 acres, and on April 28, 1800, the United States government passed an act which paved the way for the final disposition of the tract by the state of Ohio. In May, 1800, the Con-

necticut Legislature accepted the offer of the United States and formally renounced all claims to the territory in favor of the state of Ohio.

THE VIRGINIA MILITARY DISTRICT.

The reservation was retained by Virginia when the state relinquished her claim to Congress in 1784, being retained by the state for the use of the Revolutionary soldiers who had enlisted from Virginia. It comprised the territory between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, but was not to be used unless the lands claimed by Virginia south of the Ohio river proved insufficient to pay all of the bounties promised by Virginia to her soldiers. By the year 1700 it was seen that Virginia would not have enough territory south of the Ohio to satisfy all of her needs and accordingly, in August of that year, Congress passed an act allowing the state to use the optional territory north of the Ohio river. Owing to the fact that the territory was not surveyed according to any definite plan, the various allotments assigned to the Virginia soldiers frequently overlapped and in many instances confusion and litigation resulted.

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY LANDS.

The Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War offered bounties of Western lands in order to increase enlistments, and soldiers so secured were given land warrants which they later presented to Congress and exchanged for land. On June 1, 1796, Congress passed an act which called upon the surveyor-general of the United States to locate a tract in the Northwest Territory for the purpose of enabling the government to have land to take up the land warrants which it had issued during the late war. The limits of this particular tract began "at the northwest corner of the Seven Ranges, thence south fifty miles, thence west to the Scioto river and along that river to the Greenville treaty line, thence along that line and east to the place of beginning." These lands were surveyed into townships five miles square and each owner received a patent for his land signed by the President of the United States.

THE REFUGEE TRACT.

This tract was set aside by the Continental Congress in April, 1783, for the benefit of such people as left Canada and Nova Scotia to help the American colonies in their fight against England during the Revolution. The subsequent congressional act of 1798 confirmed the act of the Continental

Congress and on February 18, 1801, Congress definitely selected "those fractional townships of the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second ranges of townships joining the southern boundary line of the military lands." This tract of four and a half miles in width, and extending forty-two miles east of the Scioto river, contained more than twice as much as was needed to satisfy the claims of the refugees. The part unclaimed by those for whom it was set aside was attached to the Chillicothe land district and sold as Congress lands. It so happened that the future capital of the state, Columbus, is in the extreme western side of this tract.

CONGRESS LANDS.

Some of the tracts of land already described were Congress lands, viz., the French Grant, the Seven Ranges and the Refugee Tract. Congress retained and sold all lands not specifically relinquished to land companies and established land offices for the purpose at different times at Marietta, Cincinnati, Steubenville, Chillicothe, Zanesville, Canton, Wooster, Piqua, Delaware, Wapakoneta, Lima and Upper Sandusky.

THE MORAVIAN GRANT.

The congressional grant to the Ohio Company in 1787 reserved ten thousand acres in what is now Tuscarawas county for the use of the Moravians and Christian Indians who had previously settled there, the title being vested in the Moravian Brethren at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A few years later two thousand acres were added to the original grant and in 1823 the territory reverted to the United States, with the exception of the cemeteries, church yards and a few special leases.

DOHRMAN'S GRANT.

Congress granted all of township 13, range 7, in Tuscarawas county to one Henry Dohrman, a Portuguese citizen, who rendered valuable services to the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

THE MAUMEE ROAD LANDS.

In 1823 Congress granted to the state of Ohio about sixty thousand acres for the purpose of constructing a road from the lower rapids of the Maumee river to the western limits of the Western Reserve of Connecticut.

THE TURNPIKE LANDS.

In 1827 Congress granted to the state of Ohio forty-nine sections of land in Seneca, Crawford and Marion counties, for the construction of a road from Columbus to Sandusky.

CANAL GRANTS.

Between 1825 and 1845 Congress at different times made special grants of land to the state of Ohio for canal purposes, and a total of about one million acres were thus secured by the state. By the year 1842 the state had completed six hundred and fifty eight miles of canals, at the staggering cost to the state of \$4,688,000.97, although before they were all completed the railroads were in operation in the state.

SALT SECTIONS.

In the early history of the Northwest Territory salt was a commodity hard to secure and necessarily high in price. Congress reserved every place where it was thought salt could be obtained and in this way helped the settlers to get salt at least expense. In Ohio an entire township within the present county of Jackson was reserved, as well as about four thousand acres in Delaware county. In 1824 Congress relinquished its claim in favor of Ohio.

THE ZANE SECTIONS.

Ebenezer Zane, one of the most prominent of the men in the early history of the state, was granted three sections by Congress in 1796 in return for his services in opening a road from Wheeling to Maysville. These three sections were located at Zanesville, Chillicothe and Lancaster. Isaac Zane was granted three sections in Champaign county by Congress for valuable service to the colonies during the Revolution. Isaac Zane had been captured by the Indians when a small boy and spent the major portion of his life with them, and his influence with the Indians was such that he proved to be of great assistance to the colonies in handling them.

THE MINISTERIAL LANDS.

These lands have been previously mentioned and were reserved only in two grants, those of the Ohio Land Company and the Symmes Purchase.

The grants to both set aside section twenty-nine of each township for religious purposes.

SCHOOL SECTIONS.

Provisions for public schools were made in all states created by the United States after the adoption of the constitution. The Ordinance of 1787 had made specific mention of the value of schools and a wise Congress created section sixteen of every township, which was surveyed into townships six miles square. The United States military lands were surveyed into townships, three miles square, but Congress reserved one thirty-sixth of the whole area for school purposes. There are no reservations in the Connecticut Reserve and Virginia Military District for school purposes, but Congress made up for this by setting aside an amount equivalent to one thirty-sixth of the area on each tract from other lands belonging to the United States. As a matter of fact, one thirty-sixth of the whole state was reserved for school purposes as well as three townships for military use.

OHIO POLITICS.

The politics of Ohio presents many interesting features, but this brief summary can do little more than indicate the more important landmarks in the political history of the state. The first governor of the Northwest Territory, Arthur St. Clair, was an ardent Federalist and undoubtedly his pronounced political views had something to do with his removal from the office on November 22, 1802. From that time until 1830 the Democratic party, or the Republican or Democratic Republican, as it was at first called, controlled the state, and it was not until William Henry Harrison, a "favorite son," became a candidate for the presidency, that the Whigs were able to break the strength of the Democratic party of the state. In 1830, 1836 and 1841 the Whigs carried the state for the President. The panic of 1837, the popularity of Harrison and the Texas question were largely determining factors in the success of the Whigs. The Democrats regained sufficient power in 1848 to carry the state again, and repeated their victory in 1852. In 1856 John C. Fremont carried the state for the newly organized Republican party and since that year there has been only one Democratic electoral vote in the state of Ohio. In 1892 Grover Cleveland received one of Ohio's twenty-three electoral votes, but with the exception the state has cast a solid Republican vote for President every year since 1836. Ohio has furnished two Presidents of the United States—William Henry Harrison, Ruthsford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson.

While the state has been registering Republican votes for the President, it has had eight Democratic governors and has frequently elected them by large majorities. A complete list of the governors of the state, with the years of their tenure and their politics, is given at this point for reference:

Governor.	Tenure.	Politics
Edward Tiffin -----	1803-07 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Thomas Kirker (acting) -----	1807-09 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Samuel Huntington -----	1809-11 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Return Jonathan Meigs -----	1811-14 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Othniel Looker (acting) -----	1814-15 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Thomas Worthington -----	1815-19 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Ethan Allen Brown -----	1819-22 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Allen Trimble (acting) -----	1822-23 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Jeremiah Morrow -----	1823-27 -----	Democrat
Allen Trimble -----	1827-31 -----	Democrat
Duncan McArthur -----	1831-33 -----	National Republican
Robert Lucas -----	1833-37 -----	Democrat
Joseph Vance -----	1837-39 -----	Whig
Wilson Shannon -----	1839-41 -----	Democrat
Thomas Corwin -----	1841-43 -----	Whig
Wilson Shannon -----	1843-44 -----	Democrat
Thomas W. Bartley (acting) -----	1844-45 -----	Democrat
Mordecai Bartley -----	1845-47 -----	Whig
William Belb -----	1847-49 -----	Whig
Seabury Ford -----	1849-51 -----	Whig
Polson Wood -----	1851-53 -----	Democrat
William Medill (acting, 1853) -----	1853-56 -----	Democrat
Simon P. Chase -----	1856-60 -----	Republican
William Dennison, Jr. -----	1860-62 -----	Republican
David Tod -----	1862-64 -----	Republican
John Brogh -----	1864-65 -----	Republican
Charles Anderson (acting) -----	1865-66 -----	Republican
Leah D. Cox -----	1866-68 -----	Republican
Rutherford B. Hayes -----	1868-72 -----	Republican
Edward R. Noves -----	1872-74 -----	Republican
William Allen -----	1874-76 -----	Democrat
Rutherford B. Hayes -----	1876-77 -----	Republican
Thomas L. Young -----	1877-78 -----	Republican

Governor.	Tenure.	Politics.
Richard M. Bishop	1878-80	Democrat
Charles Foster	1880-84	Republican
George Hoadley	1884-86	Democrat
Joseph Benson Foraker	1886-90	Republican
James F. Campbell	1890-92	Democrat
William McKinley	1892-96	Republican
Asa S. Bushnell	1896-00	Republican
George W. Nash	1900-04	Republican
Myron T. Herrick	1904-06	Republican
John M. Patterson (died in office)	1906	Democrat
Andrew Liner Harris	1906-09	Republican
Judson Harmon	1909-13	Democrat
James M. Cox	1913-15	Democrat
Frank B. Willis	1915—	Republican

The political history of Ohio can not be dismissed without reference to the amendments incorporated in the new constitution in 1912 which have made the constitution practically a new instrument of government. The general tendency of the thirty-three amendments is to make a freer expression of democracy through the medium of the initiative and referendum, direct primaries and home rule for cities. A workmen's compensation law was enacted which provides for compulsory contributions to an insurance fund by the employers of the state. Many changes were made in providing for improvements in social and industrial conditions. Ohio now has a constitution which is sufficiently flexible to allow changes to be made by amendment without the trouble of a constitutional convention.

BOUNDARY LINES.

The state boundaries of Ohio have been the cause for most animated discussions, not only in regard to state limits but county and township lines as well. In 1817, and again in 1834, a severe controversy arose over the boundary between Ohio and Michigan which was settled only after violent demonstrations and government interference.

In primitive times the geographical position, extent and surface diversities were but meagerly comprehended. In truth, it may be asserted they could not have been more at variance with actual facts had they been laid out "haphazard." The Ordinance of 1787 represented Lake Michigan far north

of its real position, and even as late as 1812 its size and location had not been definitely ascertained. During that year Amos Spilford addressed a clear, comprehensive letter to the governor of Ohio relating to the boundary lines between Michigan and Ohio. Several lines of survey were laid out as the first course, but either Michigan or Ohio expressed disapproval in every case. This dispute came to a climax in 1835 when the party beginning a "permanent" survey began at the northwest corner of the state and was attacked by a force of Michigan soldiers, who sent them away badly routed and beaten. No effort was made to return to the work until the state and various parties had considered the subject, and finally the interposition of the government became necessary. A settlement resulted in the establishment of the present boundary line between the two states, Michigan being paid off with the grant of a large tract in the northern peninsula.

Ohio is situated between the $38^{\circ} 25'$ and 42° north latitude, and $80^{\circ} 30'$ and $84^{\circ} 50'$ west longitude from Greenwich, or $3^{\circ} 30'$ and $7^{\circ} 50'$ west from Washington. From north to south it extends over two hundred and fifteen miles, and from east to west two hundred and twenty miles, comprising thirty-nine thousand one hundred and sixty-four square miles.

The state is generally higher than the Ohio river. In the southern counties the surface is greatly diversified by the incursions produced by the excavating power of the Ohio river and its tributaries. The greater portion of the state was originally covered with timber, although in the central and northwestern sections some prairies were found. The crest or watershed between the waters of Lake Erie and those of the Ohio is less elevated than in New York or Pennsylvania. Sailing upon the Ohio the country appears to be mountainous, but is rising to the height of two hundred and fifty to six hundred feet above the bed of the river. Ascending the tributaries of the Ohio, these precipitous hills gradually lessen until they are resolved into gentle undulations, and toward the sources of these streams the land becomes flatter and level.

Although Ohio has no inland lakes of importance, it possesses a favorable river system which gives the state a convenient water transportation. The lake on the northern boundary, and the Ohio river on the south afford convenient outlets by water to important points. The means of communication and transportation are superior in every respect, and are constantly being increased by railroad and electric lines.

ORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS.

Adams county was named in honor of John Adams, the second President of the United States. Governor St. Clair proclaimed it a county on Feb. 19, 1797. The Virginia Military Tract included this section, and the first settlement made within its boundaries was in this county in 1790-91, between the Scioto and Little Miami, at Manchester, by Gen. Nathaniel Massie. In this town was held the first court of the county. West Union, the present county seat, was laid out by the Honorable Thomas Kiker. It occupies the summit of a high ridge. The surface of this county is hilly and broken, and the eastern part is not fertile. It produces corn, wheat and oats. Its hills are composed of aluminous shale.

Ashtand county, one of the finest agricultural sections, was formed February 26, 1836. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, grass and fruit are raised. Ashtand is its county seat and was laid out by William Montgomery in 1816. It was called Uniontown for several years. Daniel Carter raised the first cabin within the county limits in 1811.

Auglaie county was formed in February, 1848, from Allen and Mercer counties. Wapakoneta is its county seat. Auglaie is a great agricultural county, producing all the kinds of grain raised in Ohio.

Allen county was formed from the Indian territory April 1, 1823. Lima is its county seat. In Allen county are some of the greatest gas and oil fields in the United States, and the section is, for very rich in agriculture.

Ashtabula county was created June 7, 1807, and was organized January 22, 1811. The surface is level near the lake, while the remainder is undulating. The soil is mostly clay. This was the first county settled on the Western Reserve and also the earliest in northern Ohio. On the 9th of July, 1796, the first surveying party arrived at the mouth of Conneaut creek. Judge James Kingsbury was the first who wintered there with his family. He was the first man to use a sickle in the first wheat field in the Western Reserve. Their child was the first born on the Western Reserve and was starved to death. The first regular settlement was at Harpersfield in 1798. Jefferson is the county seat. Ashtabula is pleasantly situated on the river, with a fine harbor two and a half miles from the village. The first church on the Western Reserve was founded at Austburg in 1801.

Athens county was formed from Washington March 1, 1807. It produces wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. The surface is hilly and broken, with rich bottom lands between. Coal, iron ore and salt add materially to its com-

mercial value. Athens, its county seat, is situated on the Hocking river. Ohio University, the first college founded in the state, is located here.

Brown county was formed March 1, 1818, from Adams and Clermont. It produces wheat, corn, rye and oats. The southern part is prolific in grain, while the northern is adapted to grazing purposes. The surface is undulating, with the exception of the Ohio river hills. Over this county Tecumseh once held sway. Georgetown, the county seat, was laid out in 1810. Ripley is the largest business town in the county.

Belmont county was created by Governor St. Clair September 7, 1801. It produces large crops of wheat, oats, corn and tobacco. It is a picturesque tract of country, and was one of the pioneers in the early settled portions. In 1700 Fort Dille was erected on the west side of the Ohio. Baker's Fort was a mile below the mouth of the Captina. Many desperate Indian battles were fought within the limits of this county, and the famous Indian scout, Lewis Wetzel, roamed over the region. Saint Clairsville is the county seat, situated on the elevation of land, in a fertile district. Captain Kirkwood and Elizabeth Zane, of historic fame, were early pioneers here.

Builer county was formed in 1803 from Hamilton. It is within the blue limestone formation, and one of the most fertile sections of Ohio. Hamilton, the county seat, is situated on the Great Miami. Its hydraulic works furnish superior water power. Rossville, on the opposite side of the Miami, is a large mercantile town. St. Clair passed through this county on his Indian campaign in 1791, building Fort Hamilton on the Miami.

Champaign county was formed March 1, 1805, from Greene and Franklin. It is drained by Mad river and its tributaries. The soil is fertile, and produces wheat, corn, barley, hay, while beef and wool add to the general wealth. Urbana, the county seat, was laid out in 1805, by Col. William Ward. He was the chief owner of the land and donated many lots to the county under condition that their proceeds be devoted to public improvements. Joseph Vance and George Pithon were the first settlers. The Methodists built the first church in 1807. The main army of Hull concentrated at this point before setting out for Detroit. Many Indian council were called here and Tecumseh was located for a time near Deer creek.

Carroll county was formed from Columbiana in 1832-33. It produces wheat, oats and corn, and valuable coal and iron. The surface is hilly. Carrollton is its county seat.

Clark county was formed March 1, 1817, from Champaign, Madison and Green. Its second settlement was at Karch's Station in 1790. It is heavily cultivated, well watered and very fertile. Tecumseh, the old Indian

warrior, was born at the ancient Indian village of Piqua, on the Mad river on the site of New Boston. Piqua was destroyed by Gen. George Rogers Clark. Skeletons, beads, gun barrels, tomahawks, kettles, etc., have been found in the vicinity. Springfield, the county seat, is situated on the national road. It has convenient transportation facilities, is handsomely laid out, and is noted for its cultured citizens. It is near Mad river and Buck creek runs through it.

Clinton county was formed in 1810. Its surface is undulating, in some parts hilly, and the soil fertile. The county was settled in 1798-99. Wilmington is the county seat, and was laid out in 1810. The first log house was built by William Hobson. Clinton county is rich in agriculture and is noted for its macadamized roads.

Clermont county was the eighth formed in the Northwest Territory by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, December 9, 1800. The soil is exceedingly rich, and the surface is broken and, near the Ohio, hilly. Wheat, corn, oats, hay, potatoes, tobacco, barley, buckwheat and rye form the main crops. Batavia, its county seat, is situated on the Little Miami river and was laid out in 1820 by George Felt.

Columbiana county was formed March 25, 1803, from Jefferson and Washington. Its soil is very fertile, producing wheat, corn, oats and potatoes. It is wealthy in mineral deposits, coal, iron ore, lime and freestone being abundant. Its water lime stone is of superior quality. It was settled in 1797. Lisbon is the county seat. The first paper mill in Ohio was erected in this county, on Little Beaver creek, by John Coulter and John Beyer.

Coshocton county was organized April 1, 1811. Hills and valleys alternate along the Muskingum river. Coal and iron ore add to its general importance. Coshocton, the county seat, is built on four wide, natural terraces, at the junction of the Tuscarawas and Walhonding.

Cuyahoga county was formed June 7, 1807, from Geauga county. Near the lake the soil is sandy, while a clayey loam may be found elsewhere. As early as 1775 there was a French settlement within the boundaries of Cuyahoga. In 1786 a Moravian missionary came to the present site of Cleveland and settled in an abandoned village of the Ottawas. Circumstances prevented a permanent settlement, and the British tacitly took possession, even remaining upon the lake shores after the Revolution. The first permanent settlement was made at Cleaveland in 1796. Job A. Stiles and family and Edward Paine passed the first winter there, their log cabin standing where the Commercial Bank is now located. Rudolph, Edward, and Nathaniel Deane settled here. In 1813 the town was a depot of supplies and a

rendezvous for troops engaged in the war. Cleveland, the county seat, is situated at the northern termination of the Old Ohio canal on the lake shore. In 1814 it was incorporated as a village, and in 1836 as a city. Its elevation is about a hundred feet above the lake. Ohio City is another important town nearly opposite Cleveland on the Cuyahoga. It was incorporated in 1836.

Crawford county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. The entire county is adapted to grazing. The soil is generally composed of rich vegetable loam and in some parts the subsoil is clay mixed with lime. Rich beds of shell marl have been discovered. Bucyrus, the county seat, was laid out February 11, 1822, by Samuel Norton and James Kilbourn, original owners of the land. The first settler in the town proper was Samuel Norton. Crawford's sulphur springs are located nine miles from Bucyrus. The water is impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen and deposits a reddish-purple sediment. In its nature the water is a cathartic, and is diuretic and diaphoretic in its effect. The Annapolis Sulphur Springs is clear and has gained considerable fame by its curative qualities. Opposite Bucyrus is a chalybeate spring of tonic qualities.

Darke county was organized in March, 1817, from Miami county. In this county occurred the lamentable defeat of St. Clair, and the treaty of Greenville. Greenville, the county seat, was laid out August 10, 1808, by Robert Gray and John Decker. In December, 1793, Wayne built Fort Greenville on this spot, which covered about the same extent as the present town.

Delaware county was formed February 10, 1808, from Franklin. Delaware, the county seat, was laid out in the spring of 1808, by Moses Byxbee. Because of its rich soil, Delaware is an important agricultural county. The historic streams, the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, run through the county a long distance.

Defiance county was created March 4, 1815, from Williams, Henry and Paulding. The Maumee, Tiffin and Auglaize flow through it. The county is now one of the largest producers of sugar beets in Ohio. Defiance, the county seat, is situated on the Maumee. It was laid out in 1822 by B. Level and H. Phillips. A large Indian settlement occupied its site in very early times. Wayne arrived here August 8, 1794, captured the place, finding about one thousand acres of corn, peach and apple orchards and vegetables of all varieties. Here he built Fort Defiance.

Erie county was formed in 1838 from Huron and Sandusky. The soil is alluvial and yields large crops of wheat, corn, oats and potatoes. It possesses inexhaustible quantities of limestone and freestone. The Erie tribe is said to have once occupied the land and were extirpated by the Iroquois. As

early as 1754, the French had built settlements here. In 1764 the county was overrun by Pontiac, who came here with warlike demonstrations, but made peace with the whites. Erie was included in the "Fire Lands" of the Western Reserve. Sandusky City is the county seat and was laid out in 1817, then termed Portland. At that time it contained two log huts. The town is finely situated and is based upon an inexhaustible quarry of the finest limestone. In the "patriot war" with the Canadians, this city was the rendezvous for the "patriots."

Franklin county was formed April 30, 1803, from Ross. It was in early times occupied by the Wyandot Indians. Its first white settlement was made in 1797 by Robert Armstrong and others. Franklinton was laid out in 1797 by Lucas Sullivan. Worthington was settled by the Scioto Company in 1801. Colonel Kilbourn, who was interested in the work, constructed the first map of Ohio during his exploration by uniting sectional diagrams. Columbus, the capital of the state, is also the county seat of Franklin county. In 1810 the sessions of the Legislature were held at Chillicothe, in 1811 and 1812 at Zanesville, removing again to Chillicothe, and in 1816, being located at Columbus. The town was laid out during the spring of 1812. A penitentiary was erected in 1813 and the state house was built in 1814. It was incorporated as "the borough of Columbus" February 10, 1816. The city charter was granted March 3, 1834. It is beautifully located on the east bank of the Scioto. The Ohio Lame Asylum, the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind and the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb are located at Columbus.

Fairfield county was formed by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, December 9, 1800. The soil is varied, being in some parts exceedingly rich, and in others very sterile. Lancaster, the county seat, was laid out by Ebenezer Zane in 1800. In 1797 he opened the road known as "Zane's Trace," from Wheeling to Limestone—now Maysville. It passed through Lancaster at a fording about three hundred yards below the present turnpike bridge.

Fayette county was formed from Ross and Highland in 1810. Washington, its county seat, was laid out in 1810. Colonel Stewart was active in the interests of this section and his memory is sacredly revered. Jesse Millikan was prominent in early public affairs. Fayette is one of the richest agricultural counties in the state and is especially noted for the raising of fine horses.

Fulton county, bordering on Michigan, was organized in 1850. It is

drained by Bear creek and other small adjuncts of the Maumee river. The surface is nearly level and the soil fertile. Waukegan is the county seat.

Guernsey county was organized in March, 1810. It produces wheat, corn and oats. Oak Ridge is the county seat and was laid out in June, 1800. Mr. Graham was the first settler on the site of the town and his was the only dwelling between Lancaster and Wheeling. The first canal coal mine in the county was discovered near Mill's creek.

Greene county was formed May 1, 1803, from Harrison and Ross. It produces wheat, corn, rye, grass, feed, oats, barley, sheep and wine. The Shawnee town was on the Little Miami and was visited by Capt. Thomas Bullitt in 1773. When Daniel Boone was captured in 1774, he was brought to this town and escaped the following year. General Clark invaded the county and the Indians reduced the town to ashes. Xenia, the county seat, was laid out in the town in 1803 by Joseph C. Vance. The first cabin was erected in April, 1800, by John Marshall. The Rev. James Fowler built the first level log cabin. David A. Sanders, built the first frame house. Nine miles north of the town on the Little Miami river are the Yellow Springs, which are impregnated with sulphur.

Grange county was formed in 1805 from Franklin. It is situated at the head of Charginna, Cuyahoga and a part of Grand rivers, on high ground and is subjected to snow storms more frequently than any other part of the reserve. Its first settlement was made in 1798 at Burton. Chardon is fourteen miles from Lake Erie and is six hundred feet above it. It was laid out as the county seat in 1808.

Gallia county was formed April 30, 1803, from Washington. The surface is generally hilly. Its first settlement was made in 1791 by a French colony at Gallipolis. This colony was sent out under the auspices of the Scioto Company. This town is now the county seat.

Hamilton county was the second established in the Northwest Territory by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, January 2, 1790. Its surface is generally rolling. It produces the ordinary farm products and a great variety of fruits and vegetables for the Cincinnati market. This county was the second settled in Ohio and the first within the Symmes Purchase. Settlers arrived at the spot now occupied by Cincinnati and three or four log cabins were erected. Gen. Arthur St. Clair arrived here in January, 1790. The army of Wayne encamped here later, at Fort Washington. Mr. Maxwell established, in 1793, the *Scatterd of the Northwestern Territory*, the first newspaper printed north of the Ohio river. In 1796 Edward Freeman became its proprietor and changed the name to *Freeman's Journal*. January

It is a good road lead from Wheel from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh, making room for the passage of 100,000 cars weekly. In 1864 the first railroad crossed the Allegheny River at the Ohio-Cincinnati line, the county seat, was incorporated January 2, 1862. It was chartered as a city in 1819. The city is beautifully laid out and delightfully situated. Its public buildings are elegant and substantial, including the court house and many literary and charitable institutions.

Cincinnati is a large manufacturing city and possesses fine water power facilities. It communicates with the world by means of the Ohio river, rail ways and electric lines. North Bend is another prominent town in this county, having been the residence of Gen. William H. Harrison and the site of his burial place. The town was of considerable importance in the early settlement of the state. About thirty yards from Harrison's tomb is the grave of Judge Symmes.

Hamilton county was formed April 1, 1820. The surface is level and its soil is fertile. Blanchard's Fork waters the central and southern part of the county. Hamilton, the county seat, was laid out by ex-Governor Joseph Vance and called Hamilton City in 1821. It was relaid in 1826. William Vance ruled there in the fall of 1821. Hancock county has extensive gas and oil fields.

Hardin county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. A portion of the surface is level and the remainder undulating. Fort McArthur was built on the Scioto river but proved a weak stronghold. Kenton is the county seat, situated on the Scioto river.

Harrison county was formed from Jefferson and Tuscarawas, January 1, 1814. The surface is hilly, abounding in coal and limestone. Its soil is clayey. In April, 1799, Alexander Henderson and family settled in this county, and at the same time Daniel Peterson and his family resided at the forks of Short creek. The early settlers were much annoyed by Indians and wild beasts. Carey is the county seat, and was laid out in 1803 and 1804 by Messrs. Boggess and Beatty.

Henry county was formed from the old Indian Territory April 1, 1820. Indian corn, oats, potatoes and maple sugar constitute the main products. The county is well supplied with running streams, and the soil is unusually rich. The soil is superior for grain. Fruit trees and all varieties of vegetables are produced in large quantities. Simon Girty, notorious for his wicked career, resided in this county. Girty led the attack on Fort Henry in September, 1777. He demanded the surrender of the fort, and threatened its murder, with an Indian war here in case of refusal. The action began, but the fort gained the victory. He led a procession of Indians and con-

mitted the most fiendish atrocities. Napoleon, the county seat, is situated on the Maumee river.

Highland county was formed in May, 1805, from Ross, Adams and Clermont. It is a wealthy, productive county. Its first settlement began in 1801, at New Market by Oliver Ross, Robert Keeston, George W. Barrere, Bernard Weyer and others. Simon Kenton made a trace through this county in early times. Hillsboro is the county seat and was laid out in 1807 by David Hays on the land of Benjamin Ellicott. It is situated on the dividing ridge between the Miami and Scioto. The Hillsboro Academy was founded in 1827.

Hocking county was formed March 1, 1818, from Ross, Athens and Fairfield. Its surface is broken and hilly, but is level and fertile beside the streams. The Wyandots once occupied this tract and built a large town herein. In 1798 a few white families ventured to settle. Logan is its county seat and is situated on the Hocking river.

Holmes county was formed from Coshocton, Tuscarawas and Wayne January 20, 1824. The southwestern portion is broken. Thomas Butler was the first settler in 1810. Millersburg is the county seat and was laid out in 1830. This is an excellent agricultural county.

Huron county was organized in 1815. Norwalk is the county seat.

Jackson county was organized March, 1816. The country is rich in minerals and abounds in coal and iron ore. Jackson, the county seat, was laid out in 1817. The old Scioto salt works were among the first worked in Ohio by the whites. Prior to this period the Indians came some distance to this section to make salt. When Daniel Boone was a prisoner he spent some time at these works.

Jefferson county was proclaimed by Governor St. Clair July 29, 1797, and was the fifth county established in Ohio. Its resources in coal are also extensive. The surface is hilly and the soil fertile, producing wheat, corn and oats. The old "Mingo" town was on the present farms of Jeremiah Hallock and Daniel Potter. The troops of Colonel Williamson rendezvoused at this point when they set out in their cruel Moravian campaign and also the troops of Colonel Crawford, when they started on the campaign against the Sandusky Indians. Here Logan, the powerful and manly chief of the Mingo nation, once resided. He took no active part in the old French war, which closed in 1760, except that of a peacemaker. He was a staunch friend of the whites until the abominable and unprovoked murder of his father, brother and sister, which occurred in 1774 near the Yellow creek. He then raised the battle cry and sought revenge.

However, Logan was remarkably magnanimous toward prisoners who fell into his hands. The year 1793 was the last spent in Indian warfare in Jefferson county. Fort Steuben was erected on the present site of Steubenville, the county seat, in 1789. It was constructed of block-houses, with palisade fences and was dismantled during Wayne's campaign. Bezalcel Wells and Hon. James Ross laid the town out in 1798. It was incorporated February 14, 1805. It was situated upon an elevated plain. In 1814 Messrs. Wells and Dickerson built a woolen manufactory and introduced Merino sheep to the county.

Knox county was formed March 1, 1808, from Fairfield. It is drained by the Vernon river. Mount Vernon was laid out in 1805. The early settlers found two wells on the Vernon river built of hammered stone, neatly laid, and one of them was a salt lick. Their direct origin remains a mystery. Calman Bryant, in 1807, opened the first store in Mount Vernon. The Indians came to Mount Vernon in large numbers for the purpose of trading in furs and cranberries. Each Saturday the settlers worked on the streets, extracting stumps and improving the highway. The first settler north of the place was N. M. Young, who built his cabin in 1803. Mount Vernon is now the county seat, beautifully situated on Vernon river. Kenyon College is located at Gambier. This institution was established under the auspices of Bishop Chase in July, 1826, in the center of a four-thousand-acre tract belonging to Kenyon College. It was chartered as a theological seminary.

Lucas county is of comparatively recent origin. This county is situated in the Maumee valley, which was the great arena of historical events. The crucial battle of Wayne's campaign, where the Indians found the British to be traitors, was fought near Fort Miami in this county. Maumee City was laid out in 1807 by Major William Oliver and others. It is situated on the Maumee, at the head of navigation. The surface is one hundred feet above the water level. This town, with Perrysburg, its neighbor, is exceedingly picturesque and was in early times frequented by the Indians. The French had a trading post at this point in 1680, and in 1794 the British Fort Miami was built. Toledo, the county seat, is on the left bank of the Maumee and covers the site of a stockade fort, known as Fort Industry, erected in 1800. An Indian treaty was concluded here July 1, 1805, by which the Indians relinquished all rights to the "free land." In 1832 Capt. Samuel Allen gave an impetus to the place and Major Stickney also became interested in its advancement. Speculation in lots began in 1831. The Wallich & Erie canal opened here in 1836. Mr. Mason and Edward Bruce added their energies to the growth of the town. It was incorporated as a city in 1836. It

was the center of the military operations in the "Ohio and Michigan war," known as the "boundary conflict."

Lorain county was formed from Huron, Cuyahoga and Medina on December 20, 1822. The soil is generally fertile and the surface level. A curious relic has been found in this county, bearing the date of 1533. Plyra is the county seat and was laid out in 1817. The first settler was Heman Fly. Oberlin is situated about eight miles southwest of Plyra. Oberlin College has attained a wide reputation.

Logan county was formed March 1, 1817. The surface is broken and hilly near the Mad river, but is generally level. The Shawnee Indians were destroyed in 1786 by a body of Kentuckians under Gen. Benjamin Logan. The whites surprised the towns. However, they returned after the work of destruction had been completed and for many years frequented the section. On the site of Zanesfield was a Wyandot village. By the treaty of September 29, 1817, the Senecas and Shawnees held a reservation around Lewistown. April 6, 1832, they vacated this right and removed west. Isaac Zane was born about the year 1753 and was, while a boy, captured and afterward adopted by the Wyandots. Attaining the age of manhood, he had no desire to return to his people. He married a Wyandot woman, who was half French. After the treaty of Greenville he bought one thousand eight hundred acres on the site of Zanesfield, where he lived until the year 1816, when he died, lamented by all his friends. Logan county was settled about the year 1806. During the War of 1812 it was a rendezvous for friendly Indians. Bellefontaine, the county seat, was laid out March 18, 1820, on land owned by John Fultes and William Powell. Joseph Gordon built a cabin and Anthony Ballard erected the first frame dwelling. Gen. Simon Kenton is buried at the head of Mad river, five miles from Bellefontaine. He died April 29, 1836, aged eighty-one years and twenty-six days. This remarkable man came west to Kentucky in 1771. He probably encountered more thrilling escapes than any other man of his time. In 1778 he was captured and suffered extreme cruelties and was ransomed by the British. He soon recovered his robust health and escaped from Detroit the following spring. He settled in Urbana in 1802. He was commissioned brigadier-general of the militia and in the War of 1812 joined General Harrison's army. In the year 1820 he removed to Mad river. General Vance and Judge Burnet secured him a pension of twenty dollars a month.

Licking county was formed from Fairfield March 1, 1808. The surface is generally level, diversified by slight hills in the eastern portion. Coal and iron ore of good quality add to the wealth of the county. Newark is the

county seat, and is situated at the confluence of the three principal branches of the Licking. In 1801 it was laid out by Gen. William C. Schenk, George W. Burnett and John M. Cunningham, who owned this military section of four thousand acres. In 1802 Samuel Elliott and Samuel Parr built hewed log houses. The picturesque "Narrow" or the Licking are in the eastern part of the county. Within the county are ancient fortifications, the most noted in the state of Ohio, containing about three hundred acres. The engineering is of the best and the works have frequently been visited by European scientists. The live oaks are lined with old trees and the trenches are now great canals.

Lexington county was organized March 1, 1816. There are many high and abrupt hills in this section, which abound in sand and freestone. It is rich in minerals and the most important section of Ohio for iron manufacture. Coal is abundant and white clay exists in the western part suitable for pottery purposes. The county was settled in 1797 by the Dutch and Irish. The iron region extends through the west part of this county. Tranton is the county seat.

The county was formed from Geauga and Cuyahoga March 6, 1840. The soil is good and the surface rolling. As early as 1790 a settlement was formed at Mentor. Painesville, the county seat, is situated on Grand river in a beautiful valley. Painesville was laid out by Henry Champion in 1805. At Fairport the first warehouse in this section and probably the first on the lake was built by Abner S. Skinner in 1803. This town has a fine harbor and was a light house and beacon. Kirktown, southwest from Painesville, was in 1831, the headquarter of the Mormons. At that time they numbered about three thousand. The old Mormon temple is of rough stone, plastered over, colored blue, and marked to imitate regular courses of masonry.

Madison county was organized in March, 1816. The surface is generally level. Jonathan Alder was much interested in the settlement of the county. Captured when a child, he had lived with the Indians many years and had formed a lasting affection for them, and he married a squaw. He became dissatisfied with his Indian wife and this caused him to look up his own family. He succeeded through the assistance of John Moore. He left his Indian wife and joined his people.

This county was first settled in 1795. Benjamin Springer made a clearing and built a cabin. Joshua Fwing brought four sheep to this place and the Indians exhibited great astonishment over these strange animals. When the hostilities of 1812 began, the British offered inducements to the Indians to join them and they consulted Alder regarding the best policy to adopt. He advised them to prepare for a hard struggle until a later period which they did, and

eventually became firm friends of the Americans. London is the county seat and was laid out in 1810-11 by Patrick McLane.

Marion county was organized March 1, 1824. The soil is fertile and produces extensive farm crops. The Delaware Indians once held a reservation here and conceded their claims August 3, 1829, and then removed west of the Mississippi. Marion, the county seat, was laid out in 1821 by Eber Baker and Alexander Holmes. General Harrison marched through this section during his campaign.

Mahoning county was formed in 1846 from Trumbull and Columbiana. The surface is rolling and the soil generally fertile. Bituminous coal and iron are found in large quantities. Col. James Hillman came to the Western Reserve in 1786. The settlement of the county went forward. Youngstown is the county seat.

Medina county was formed from the Western Reserve February 12, 1812. The surface is rolling and the soil is fertile, producing fine agricultural products. The first trail through the county was made by George P., Joseph H. Larwell and Roswell M. Mason. The first settlement was made by Joseph Harris in 1811. He was soon joined by the Burr Brothers. Medina is the county seat.

Meigs county was formed from Gallia and Athens April 1, 1819. The general character of the soil is clayey, producing large quantities of wheat, oats, corn, hay and potatoes. Pomeroy, the county seat, is situated under a lofty hill, surrounded by picturesque scenery. Nathaniel Clark was the first settler of the county. He arrived in 1816. The first coal mine opened in Pomeroy was in 1819 by David Bradshaw.

Merces county was formed from the Indian Territory in 1820. The surface is generally flat. St. Clair's battle was fought on the boundary line between this and Darke county. Lewis Cass and Duncan McArthur made a treaty on St. Mary's with the Wyandots, Shawnees and Ottawas in 1818. The odious Simon Girty lived at one time at St. Mary's. Wayne built St. Mary's fort on the west bank of the river. John Whistler was the last commander of the fort. The largest artificial lake in the world, so it is asserted, is formed by the reservoir supplying the St. Mary's feeder of the Miami Extension Canal. It is about nine miles long and from two to four broad. Celina is the county seat.

Montgomery county was formed January 16, 1807, from Montgomery. It abounds in excellent limestone and possesses remarkable water power facilities. Its agricultural products rank high in quality and quantity. John Kneep came into this section about the year 1797 and its first settlement

began about this time. Troy, the county seat, is situated upon the Great Miami. Piqua is the largest city in the county.

Monroe county was formed January 29, 1813, from Belmont, Washington and Guernsey. A portion of its surface is abrupt and hilly. Large quantities of tobacco are raised. Iron ore and coal abound. The valleys of the streams are very narrow, bounded by rough hills. In some places are natural rock grottoes. The first settlement was made in 1799 near the mouth of the Sunfish. At this time wolves were numerous and caused much alarm. Volney entered this county but was not prepossessed in its favor. One township was settled by the Swiss. Woodfield is the county seat.

Montgomery county was formed from Ross and Hamilton May 1, 1803. The soil is fertile and its agricultural products are most excellent. Quarries of grayish-white limestone are found east of the Miami. Dayton is the county seat, situated on the Great Miami at the mouth of Mad river.

A company was formed in 1788, but Indian wars prevented settlement. After War of treaty in 1795, a new company was formed. It advanced rapidly between the years 1812 and 1820. The beginning of the Miami canal reached its prosperity in 1827. The first canal boat from Cincinnati arrived at Dayton on the 25th of January, 1829. The first one arrived from Lake Erie in June, 1815. Col. Robert Patterson came to Dayton in 1804. At one time he owned Lexington, Kentucky, and about one-third of Cincinnati.

Morgan county was organized in 1808, March 1. The surface is hilly and the soil strong and fertile, producing wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. Potatoes are a prolific product and considerable salt is made. The first settlement was made in 1790 on the Muskingum. Mechanicsville is the county seat. Mr. Ayres made the first attempt to produce salt in 1817.

Morron county was organized in 1818. It is drained by the Vernon river, which rises in it, by the East Branch of the Olentangy or Whetstone creek and by Walnut creek. The surface is undulating and the soil fertile. The staple products are corn, wheat, oats, hay, wool and butter. Mount Gilead, the county seat, is situated on the East Branch of the Olentangy river.

Muskingum county was formed from Washington and Fairfield. The surface is rolling or hilly. It produces wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, tobacco, wool and pork. Large quantities of bituminous coal are found. Salt is made in large quantities, the fine being obtained from a stratum of whitish sandstone. The Wyandots, Delawares, Senecas and Shawnees Indians once inhabited this section. An Indian town occupied the site of Duncan's Falls. A Love Shawnee town was located near Dresden. Zanesville is the county

seat, situated opposite the mouth of the Licking. It was laid out in 1799 by Mr. Zane and Mr. McIntire. This is one of the principal towns in the state.

Noble county, organized in 1851, is drained by Seneca, Duck and Walls creeks. The surface is undulating and a large part of it is covered with forests. The soil is fertile. Among its mineral resources are limestone, coal and petroleum. Near Caldwell, the county seat, are found non ore, coal and salt.

Ontario county was formed from Erie, Sandusky and Lucas March 6, 1840. It was very thinly settled before 1830. Extensive plaster beds exist on the peninsula, which extends into Lake Erie. It has also large limestone quarries, which are extensively worked. The very first trial at arms upon the soil of Ohio, during the War of 1812, occurred upon this peninsula. Port Clinton, the county seat, was laid out in 1817.

Perry county was formed from Washington, Hancock and Muskingum March 1, 1817. Fine tobacco is raised in large quantities. Wheat, corn, oats, hay, cattle, pork and wool add to the general wealth. This county was first settled in 1801. The first settler was Christian Buckley, who built the first cabin in the county, about five miles west of Somerset, near the present county line. New Lexington is the county seat.

Putnam county was formed from old Indian Territory August 1, 1820. It is very rich in agriculture and produces corn, wheat, sugar beets and oats. Parkersburg is the county seat.

Pickaway county was formed from Litchfield, Ross and Franklin January 12, 1800. The county has woodland, barren, plain and prairie. The barrens were covered by hick oaks and when cleared are adapted to the raising of corn and oats. The Pickaway plains are three and a half miles west of Circleville and this tract is said to contain the richest land in Ohio. Here, in the olden time, burned the great council fire of the red man. Here the allied tribes met General Lewis, who fought the battle of Point Pleasant. Dunmore's campaign was terminated on these plains. It was at the Chillicothe towns, after Dunmore's treaty, that Logan delivered his famous speech. Circleville, the county seat, is situated on the Scioto river and the Ohio canal. It was laid out in 1810 by Daniel Dresbach. It is situated on the site of ancient fortifications.

Portage county was formed June 7, 1807, from Trumbull. It is a wealthy, thriving section. It also produces wheat, corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, rye, butter and wool. Ravenna is the county seat and was originally settled by the Hon. Benjamin Tappan in June, 1799. In 1800 an unpleasant bloody strife between the settlers and a camp of Indians in Deerfield,

carried by a horse trade between a white man and an Indian. David Daniels settled on the site of Pabingra in 1799.

Pike county was organized in 1815. The surface is generally hilly, which abounds with freestone, which is exported in large quantities for building purposes. Rich bottom land extend along the Scioto and its tributaries, John Nolan and the three Cane with brothers settled on the Pee Pee prairie about 1796. Pletown, the former county seat, was laid out about 1814. Vandalia, the present county seat, is situated on the Scioto river.

Pulaski county was formed March 1, 1798, from Montgomery and Butler. The soil is varied. Eaton, the county seat, was laid out in 1806, by W. Wainwright, who owned the land. An overflowing well or strong sulphur water is near the town, while directly beside it is a limestone quarry. Holderman's quarry is about two miles distant, from which is obtained a beautifully clouded gray stone. Fort St. Clair was built near Eaton in the winter of 1799-1800. General Harrison was an ensign at the time and commanded a guard every other night, or three weeks during the building. The severe battle of November 6, 1797, was fought under its very guns. Little Turtle, and a largeish chief of the Miami, remained over this county for a time. He was witty, brave and earnest and, although engaged in several severe conflicts with the whites, he was inclined toward peace. But when his warriors cried for war he led them bravely.

Perran county was formed April 1, 1830, from old Indian Territory. The soil is fertile, its principal productions being wheat, corn, potatoes and cotton. Redella, once the county seat, was laid out in 1834. Ottawa is the county seat.

Poss county was formed August 26, 1798, by the proclamation of Governor St. Clair and was the ninth county formed in the Northwest Territory. The Scioto river and Paint creek run through it, bordered with fertile lands. It exports cattle and hogs. The Rev. Robert W. Finley, in 1794, addressed a letter of inquiry to Col. Nathaniel Massie, as many of his associates had designed settling in the new state. This resulted in packing their several effects and setting out. A trivial Indian encounter was the only interruption they met with on their way. After Wayne's treaty, Colonel Massie and many of these early explorers met again and formed a settlement in 1796, at the mouth of Paint creek. In August of this year, Chillicothe was laid out by Colonel Massie in a dense forest. He donated lots to the early settlers. A ferry was established over the Scioto and the opening of Zane's trace assisted the progress of settlement. Chillicothe, the county seat, is situated on the Scioto. Its site is thirty feet above the river. In

1800 it was the seat of the Northwest territorial government. It was incorporated as a city in January, 1802. During the War of 1812, the city was a rendezvous for the United States troops. A large number of British were at one time guarded here. Adena is a beautiful place and the seat of Governor Worthington's mansion, which was built in 1806.

Richland was organized March 1, 1813. It was settled about 1800 on branches of the Mohican. Two block-houses were built in 1812. Mansfield, the county seat, is charmingly situated and was laid out in 1808 by Jacob Newman, James Hedges and Joseph H. Larwell. The county was at that period a vast wilderness, destitute of roads. From this year the settlement progressed rapidly.

Sandusky county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. The soil is fertile and country generally level. Near Lower Sandusky lived a band of Wyandots, called the Neutral Nation. They preserved their peace-making attributes through the Iroquois conflicts. Fremont, formerly called Lower Sandusky, the county seat, is situated at the head of navigation on the Sandusky on the site of the old reservation grant to the Indians, at the Greenville treaty council. Fort Stephenson was erected in August, 1813, and was gallantly defended by Colonel Croghan.

Summit county was formed March 3, 1840, from Medina, Portage and Stark. The soil is fertile and produces excellent fruit, besides large crops of corn, wheat, hay, oats and potatoes. The first settlement made in the county was at Hudson in 1800. The old Indian portage-paths, extending through the county, between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum. This was a part of the ancient boundary between the Six Nations and the Western Indians. Marion, the county seat, is situated on the portage summit. It was laid out in 1845. In 1844 Paul Williams and Amos and Minor Spicer settled in this county. Middlebury was laid out in 1818 by Norton and Hart.

Stake county was formed February 13, 1808. It is a rich agricultural county. It has large quantities of mineral coal and iron ore. Limestone and extensive beds of lime-marl exist. Frederick Post, the first Moravian missionary in Ohio, settled here in 1761. Canton is the county seat, situated in the forks of the Nimi-shillen, a tributary of the Muskingum. It was laid out in 1806, by Bezaleel Wells, who owned the land. Massillon was laid out in March, 1829, by John Duncan.

Shelby county was formed in 1810, from Miami. The southern portion is undulating, rising in some places to hills. Through the north it is a flat table land. The first point of English settlement in Ohio was at the

mouth of Laramie's creek in this county as early as 1752. Fort Laramie was built in 1794 by Wayne. The first white family that settled in this county was that of James Thatcher in 1804. Sidney, the county seat, was laid out in 1810 on the farm of Charles Starrett.

Seneca county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. Fort Seneca was built during the War of 1812. The Senecas owned forty thousand acres of land on the Sandusky river, mostly in Seneca county. Thirty thousand acres of this land was granted to them in 1847 at the treaty held at the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The remaining ten thousand was granted the following year. These Indians ceded this tract, however, to the government in 1831. It was asserted by an old chief that this band was the remnant of Logan's tribe. Tillin, the county seat, was laid out by Josiah Hedges in the year 1821.

Scioto county was formed May 1, 1803. It is a good agricultural section, besides producing iron ore, coal and freestone. It is said that a French fort stood at the mouth of the old Scioto as early as 1740. In 1785 four families settled where Portsmouth now stands. Thomas McDonald built the first cabin in the county. The French grant was located in this section—a tract comprising twenty-four thousand acres. The grant was made in March, 1795. Portsmouth, the county seat, is located upon the Ohio.

Trumbull county was formed in 1800. The original Connecticut Western Reserve was within its limits. The county is well cultivated and very wealthy. Coal is found in its northern portion. Warren, the county seat, is situated on the Mahoning river. It was laid out by Ephraim Quinby in 1801. Mr. Quinby owned the soil. His cabin was built here in 1799. In August, 1800, while Mr. McMahon was away from home, a party of drunken Indians called at the house, abused the family, struck a child a severe blow with a tomahawk and threatened to kill the family. Mrs. McMahon could not send tidings which could reach her husband before noon the following day. The following Sunday morning, fourteen men and two boys, armed themselves and went to the Indian camp to settle the difficulty. Quinby advanced alone, leaving the remainder in concealment, as he was better acquainted with these people, to make inquiries and ascertain their intentions. He did not return at once and the party set out, marched into camp and found Quinby arguing with Captain George, the chief. Captain George snatched his tomahawk and declared war, rushing forward to kill McMahon. But a bullet from the frontiersman's gun killed him instantly, while Storey shot "Spotted John" at the same time. The Indians then fled. They joined the council at Sandusky. Quinby garrisoned his house. Fourteen days

thereafter the Indians returned with overtures of peace, which were, that McAlister and Storey be taken to Sandusky, tried by Indian laws, and if found guilty punished by them. This could not be done. McAlister was tried by General St. Clair and the matter was settled. The first missionary to the territory was the Rev. Joseph Budger.

Lawrence county was formed February 15, 1808, from Muskingum. It is well cultivated with abundant supplies of coal and iron. The first white settlers were McAvoy and a native, their first visits dating back to 1701. The first permanent settlement was made in 1803. Mac Heckewelder, the discoverer of coal in this county, was born in this county April 16, 1784. Fort Laurens was built during the Revolution. It was the scene of a fearful carnage. It was established in the fall of 1776 and placed under the command of General McIntosh. New Philadelphia is the county seat, situated on the Fairgrounds. It was laid out in 1794 by John Kinsey. A German colony settled in this county in 1817, driven from their native land by religious persecutions. They called themselves Separatists. They are good people, strictly moral and honest.

Union county was formed from Franklin, Delaware, Logan and Madison in 1800. Extensive limestone quarries are also valuable. The Ewing family made the first white settlement in 1708. Col. James Carr, a member of the State Legislature, was the chief instigator in the progress of this section. He located within its limits and remained until his death, which occurred in 1834. Morgantown is the county seat.

Van Wert county was formed from the old Indian Territory April 1, 1826. Van Wert, the county seat, was founded by James W. Riley in 1837. An Indian town had formerly occupied its site. Captain Riley was the first white man who settled in the county, arriving in 1821. He founded Willshire in 1823.

Vinton county was organized in 1800. It is drained by Raccoon and Scioto rivers. The surface is undulating or hilly. Bituminous coal and iron ore are found. McArthur is the county seat.

Washington county was formed by proclamation of Governor St. Clair July 27, 1783, and was the first county formed within the limits of Ohio. The surface is broken with extensive tracts of level, fertile land. It was the first county settled in the state under the auspices of the Ohio Company, established out of United States troops, under the command of Major John Doughty, both Fort Harmar in 1783 and it was the first military post established in Ohio by Americans, with the exception of Fort Laurens, which was erected in 1778. It was occupied by United States troops until 1799.

when they were ordered to Connecticut. A company under Captain Haskell remained. In 1783 the directors of the Ohio Company began practical operation, and settlement went forward rapidly. Campus Martius, a stockade fort, was completed in 1791. This formed a sturdy stronghold during the war. During the Indian war there was much suffering in the county. Many settlers were killed and captured. Marietta is the county seat and the oldest town in Ohio. Marietta College was chartered in 1835. Herman Blumer, m. s. c., whose unfortunate association with Aaron Burr proved fatal to himself, was a resident of Marietta in 1790.

Warren county was formed May 1, 1803, from Hamilton. The soil is very fertile and considerable water power is furnished by its streams. Mr. Beallford is the first settler, in 1793. Lebanon is the county seat. Henry Licker, killed in this vicinity in 1790. Union Village is a settlement of Shakers. They came here about 1803.

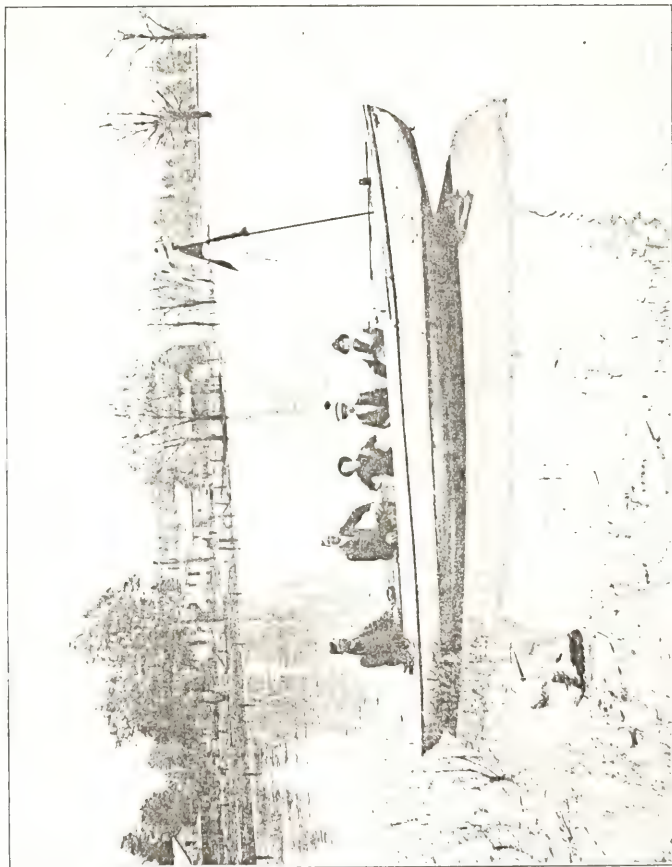
Wayne county was proclaimed by Governor St. Clair, August 15, 1796, and was the sixth county in the Northwest Territory. The settlement of this section had already been briefly indicated. Wooster is the county seat. It was laid out before the fall of 1788, by John Beaver, William Henry and Joseph H. Latwell, owners of the land. Its site is three hundred and thirty-seven feet above Lake Erie. The first mill was built by Joseph Stibbs in 1806, on Apple creek. In 1812 a block-house was erected in Wooster.

Wood county was formed from the old Indian Territory in 1820. The soil is rich and large crops are produced. The county is situated within the Mariage valley. It was the arena of brilliant military exploits during early times. Bowling Green is the county seat.

Williams county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. Bryan is the county seat. It was laid out in 1840.

Wyandot county was formed February 3, 1815, from Marion, Hardin, Hancock, and Crawford. The surface is level and the soil fertile. The Wyandot Indians trepanned this section. It was the scene of Crawford's defeat in June, 1782, and his fearful death. By the treaty of 1817, Hon. Lewis Cass and Hon. Duncan McArthur, United States commissioners, granted to the Indians a reservation twelve miles square, the central point being Fort Verree. The Delaware reserve was ceded to the United States in 1820. The Wyandots ceded theirs March 17, 1842. The United States commissioner was Col. John Johnson, who thus made the last Indian treaty in Ohio. Every tract of this state was fairly purchased by treaties. The Wyandots were exceedingly brave and several of their chiefs were men of exalted moral principle.

Upper Sandusky is the county seat and was laid out in 1813. General Harrison had built Ferree on this spot during the War of 1812. Governor Meigs, in 1813, encamped near the river with several thousand of the Ohio militia. The Indian village of Crane Town was originally called Upper Sandusky. The Indians transferred their town, after the death of Tarhe, to Upper Sandusky.



HIGH WATER MARK ON BLANCHARD RIVER AT OTTAWA

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

The topography of the land embraced within the county of Putnam is different in some respects from that of the other counties in this part of the state. Although it is uniformly flat, its numerous rivers and streams afford excellent drainage, while a complex system of artificial drainage has brought practically all of the county under cultivation. The rivers and streams are bordered in many cases with high bluffs on one side or the other and these elevations serve to break the monotony of the prairies.

Most of the soil of the county is alluvial in formation and is, in many cases, composed of muck, which, in some townships, is mixed with sand and, in others, with clay. The soil is generally very prolific of all kinds of agricultural products peculiar to this section of Ohio, and in very few instances is it necessary to use fertilizers in order to secure excellent crops. In many places in the county the land was once covered with water and dense aquatic vegetation. Such land has been termed muck land and, after being well drained, makes very productive soil. Early in the history of the county much of the land was covered with swamps and it was many years before the county was brought to its present high state of cultivation.

At the present time about all the land of the county which is not under cultivation is in the beds of the rivers and streams and in that which makes up the public highways. Most of the first settlers located along the streams, not only because they afforded an easy access to the outside world, but also because the land bordering them was easier to cultivate. During the past half century thousands of miles of ditches have been put into operation within the county and the once impenetrable swamps now comprise as fine farming lands as can be found in any part of the United States.

Through the county moraines, or ridges of earth higher than the adjacent lands, are found in abundance. These moraines are composed of sand and are covered with an alluvial soil which is black in appearance, but frequently heavily mixed with clay. These moraines are supposed to have been formed during the glacial period by the receding waters of the lake, which, before retreating, covered the entire northwestern part of Ohio. As this

theory of the formation of the moraines has never been questioned, it may be taken as a fact.

The various rivers and creeks throughout the county have a trend toward the north and all drainage of the county eventually finds its way into the Maumee river. The several streams of the county may be briefly mentioned as follows:

The Auglaize river, or All Glaise or Gaud Glaise, is one of the largest tributaries of the Maumee river. With its many tributaries, the Auglaize drains the greater part of the county. The name of the river betrays its French origin and may be traced back to the time of the occupancy by that nation.

The Ottawa river, familiarly known as Hog creek, was named in honor of the Ottawa Indians who formerly lived within the present limits of this county. The name, Hog creek, seems to have been applied as the result of an interesting incident which happened many years ago. In the Putnam county history by George Skinner, the author explains the origin of the name Hog creek as follows: "While the English had possession of Fort Miami in the Maumee river, parties on that river undertook to supply them with pork. In driving a lot of hogs to the fort they were compelled to cross the Ottawa river, which, at that particular time, was unfortunately very high. The men driving the hogs became frightened at the hostile demonstrations of some Indians whom they encountered along the Ottawa, and, evidently thinking that the Indians were about to attempt to capture some of the hogs, drove part of the porkers into the river. Some of the hogs reached the other side safe, others swam back to the shore from which they started, while still others were drowned in the river. The owners finally abandoned the hogs to their fate, returned home, and from that day forward the Ottawa river has often been called Hog creek."

Blanchard river was formerly known as the North Fork of the Auglaize. It was renamed the Blanchard in honor of a man by that name who is said to have been the first white man to have traded with the Indians up and down the river. He bought their furs and other articles which they had to dispose of and in return doled out to the savages meager portions of powder, beads and such trinkets as were usually handled by the early traders.

Sugar creek derives its name from the fact that in its early history its banks were lined with sugar maple trees. The Indians were wont to repair to the bank of this beautiful little stream every spring for the purpose of making maple sugar, and, after the Indians left, the white men made good use of the many then and of trees along the river bank.

Riley creek was originally called Deer creek, from the fact that deer abounded in great numbers along its banks in the early history of the county. It was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians, who knew it as Deer creek long before the white man ever saw it. The surveyors who worked in this county in 1820 designated it as Deer creek. The name Riley was applied to the creek in later years, in honor of James Watson Riley, one of the early surveyors of Putnam county. The story is handed down through the years that Riley once nearly lost his life in trying to ford the creek and did actually lose his surveying instruments. His tripod was never found and it is doubtless resting quietly in the bottom of the stream to this day.

Jennings creek received its name in honor of Colonel Jennings, who, in 1812, built a stockade on the Auglaize where the prosperous little village of Ft. Jennings now stands. This same sterling old pioneer left his name on the township in which the town of Ft. Jennings is situated.

Plum creek, as the name indicates, was so named because of the abundance of plum trees which formerly grew along its banks. Fruit of any kind was very scarce in the early days and a wild plum was much better than no plum at all. The Indians were fond of this fruit and every fall visited the creek in order to feast on the delicacy.

Leatherwood creek was named by one of the early surveyors from the fact that its banks were lined with this bush. The pioneers had occasion to resort to the banks of Leatherwood creek frequently for their harness component. The tough bark of this bush made an excellent substitute for leather and many an acre of Putnam county land has been plowed the first time by teams using leatherwood harness.

Cherry creek derived its name from the bush of that name. The sweet cherry once grew in profusion along the banks of this creek, but it has since disappeared, with the beaver, its best friend.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTY

Putnam county is preeminently an agricultural county and finds its greater wealth in its thousands of fertile acres. While the greater portion of the county is a black land, there are parts of the county where there are iron ore deposits. As a result there are found many tile and brick factories in the county and the swampy character of the county has made the tile industry a very profitable one.

In many parts of the county limestone deposits occur and a number of

quarries have been opened, which furnish excellent macadamizing material, as well as stone for many other purposes.

In Sugar Creek and Pleasant townships there is a small deposit of yellow clay, but not enough to make it of any commercial value. Throughout the county there are numerous springs of white sulphur, yellow sulphur and limestone water. The medicinal qualities of some of these springs make them of undoubted therapeutic value and in the coming years some enterprising man will find a fortune in this medicine prepared by Dame Nature.

In almost every township in the county wells have been driven for oil and gas, but, while both have been found in limited quantities, the yield has not been sufficient to make the operation of wells a profitable venture.

CHAPTER III.

INDIANS IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

INDIAN MOUNDS.

The artificial mounds in Putnam county are few in number and much smaller than those in the counties in the southern part of the state, where such mounds are numerous, large in circumference and much greater in height. In fact throughout the northern part of the state there are no mounds of great height. The reason of this may be explained by the fact that the surface of the ground is level and the purposes for which the mounds were built did not exist to an extent requiring greater height in their construction. While this difference exists between the northern and southern parts of this state, there are many features connected with them which are very similar in the matter of construction, location and the contents unearthed by excavation. In this county only five of these mounds are known to be in existence and in investigating the contents, obtained by tunneling and digging to their base, the same features are demonstrated as have characterized such investigations of many of the larger and smaller mounds in the southern part of the state. Here, as well as in southern Ohio, the mounds were not all constructed of the same soil as immediately surrounds them. The soil constituting the interior of these mounds is usually of an alluvial nature and was in some manner conveyed to the place at which the mound was erected. In some instances the soil used was the same as only to be found a thousand feet from the mound. The inside of these mounds was usually constructed of sand and loam, while the outside was covered with clay to the depth of nearly two feet. This clay was so impervious to frost and water that the elements, for ages, have made but little impression on the clay soil. In tunneling these mounds the same features existed in all of them. In the center of each mound, about eighteen inches deeper than the surrounding surface of the ground, there was found charred wood, fragments of calcined stone and bones of animals, all of which had been subject to fire upon being placed there. In no instance were human bones found in

the mounds at this depth below what is now the natural surface of the ground surrounding. The only perceptible rise of the ground for several feet from these mounds may be attributed to the natural wash of rains following the frozen and thawing conditions of the soil. The fact of finding charred wood, animal bones, etc., at such a depth below the surrounding surface may also be explained by the accumulation of soil for ages past. The finding of charred wood, bones, etc., in the center, may be explained by the supposition that, before constructed, a sacrifice or burned offering was a part of a ceremony connected with their building. Another feature connected with these mounds is that in the vicinity where they exist many pieces of broken pottery, arrow heads, stone axes, etc., have been found, and nearly every year now the earth gives up many such things.

Numerous theories have been advanced in regard to these artificial mounds—who built them, for what purposes were they built and as to the period of time at which they were built, but these questions yet remain as a sealed book and may never be satisfactorily answered. While it is conceded that the race of people who constructed these mounds were numerous, intelligent and industrious, yet where these people came from and the time of their activities on earth are also unsolved questions.

If the mounds were built in commemoration of religious events, then their builders were a people who had a religion. If they were built, as some writers claim, for military purposes, then their builders were warriors. If for the latter purpose, then who were the foes they were protecting themselves against? At what period of time did they occupy this portion of the earth or at what time they disappeared from it, no historian has yet attempted to fix, but students who have given the matter consideration agree that the period of time was after the Glacial period or Ice Age. The riddle of the Sphinx still remains unsolved, so does that of the artificial mounds, which exist in about every state of our Union, and in almost every county of Ohio.

While these mounds are commonly designated as "Indian mounds," there is nothing to confirm such designation. It is well known that our American Indians, as a class of people, were indolent and lazy and would never do manual labor except by compulsion, and that they possibly never deviated from their habits in this respect by carrying the dirt from the distance required.

Many writers have expressed opinions about the builders of these mounds, and plausible theories have been advanced, yet these theories are but conjectures and unsustained by absolute facts. Some writers claim

that the people who built them came from southern countries, and that at one time they were inhabitants of Phoenicia, and worked their way northward. Other writers, in trying to explain the disappearance of these people from this country, state that they were destroyed or driven from here by a race of Asiatic Indians, who came to this country by the way of Bering Strait. It is also stated by writers on the subject that when this continent was first discovered the Indians were its only inhabitants and that these Indians had no tradition as to any other people or any wars with any other race of people. But, as we are not an archaeologist, we will not attempt to solve such problems. Yet in time to come, research by students of the question may result in something tangible in regard to the matter.

Of the five artificial mounds that existed in Putnam county, but one or two now remain, the others having been leveled to the earth by the encroachment of agriculture or for the construction of roads and other purposes for the better of mankind today. The artificial mounds of Putnam county were located as follows: The largest one in Perry township, which was possibly, fifteen feet high and fifty feet in diameter, but now only about eight feet high. One mile north of this mound was another, located on the banks of the Aughake river. Scarcely a trace of this mound now exists, nearly all of it being washed away by the encroachment of the river. The third mound was on the Blanchard river, in Greensburg township. Another was on Hog creek, in Union township. Another was located a mile east of Otava on what is now the Powell farm. This latter mound is now almost obliterated.

AXES AND ARROW HEADS

In the vicinity of all these mounds, broken pottery, stone axes, arrow heads, etc., are still to be found. The arrow heads are of different colors of flint and of various sizes, from an inch and a half to six inches in length and of geometrical proportions. The stone axes are also of different sizes and of different stone. While nearly all varieties of stone are in evidence, that of limestone does not exist. The shapes of these axes indicate skill in their formation and knowledge of proportion. That the stone was put through a process of hardening or tempering we have no doubt, as in our boyhood days in southwestern Ohio, we frequently visited a spot of ground near which were a mass of pieces of stone blocked in shapes and sizes, the location being no doubt a place where this process was practiced. As to the arrow heads, the manner of their construction has not yet been re-discovered. Several theories have been presented, yet, on trying to work them out, they

have all proved a failure. The problem still remains to be solved. While all these axes are commonly called "Indian axes," the term is a misnomer, so far as the masses of these found is concerned. The only kind of an axe that the Indians were ever known to have made is one made out of blue-clay and dried in the air. It is but a crude imitation of the real stone axe and is deficient in proportion and finish and a poor imitation of the real stone axe.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND OCCUPANCY BY THE INDIANS.

Prior to the year 1763, the Indians had peaceable possession of the lands in this part of Ohio, under the claims of France. During the year 1763, France ceded all its rights to the British government. In 1774, Great Britain, by its Parliament, passed an act declaring ownership of all the territory as far south as the Ohio river, and attached the territory to the province of Quebec.

Great Britain retained its right to the territory for a period of twenty years, when, in 1783, by the treaty of Paris, it surrendered all claims and the territory became a part of the United States.

THE OTTAWA RESERVATION.

By a treaty consummated by our government on September 20, 1777, at "The Foot of the Rapids of the Mouth of the Lakes," the Ottawa Reservation was ceded to the Indians. This treaty stipulates that "There shall be reserved for the use of Ottawa Indians, but not granted to them, a tract of land on Blanchard's fork, of the Great Anglaise river, to contain two square miles, the center of which tract is to be where the old trace crosses the said fork," and "one other tract to contain three square miles, on the Little Anglaise, to include Oc que nox ie village." The reservation given to Oc que nox ie was where the village of Charlee is now located in Paulding county.

The Ottawa Indians were permitted to occupy these reservations until the year 1833, when the United States bought them from the Indians. In the year 1833 our government placed on sale the lands constituting the reservation. The sale was made at Wapakoneta in the fall of that year.

Thus, after occupying the lands, under the United States government, for a period of nineteen years, and possibly for over a hundred years previously by right of possession, the last ownership of the lands by the Indians expired.

During the pending of the treaty granting this reservation there was much contention among the Indians as to whether they would accept the terms of the treaty, claiming that the five square miles did not contain enough land. The advocates of accepting the treaty and those opposing were about equally divided and much bad blood was engendered over the matter. So bitter had the strife become that frequent murders occurred among those favoring and those opposing the treaty. Yet the matter was eventually settled and peace reigned during the after years so long as they occupied the reservation. Many of the chiefs of the tribes located throughout this part of the state were opposed to the provisions of the treaty and only about three hundred of the great number of Ottawa Indians attended the great meeting at which this and other treaties were made at that time. One of the most bitter opponents of the treaty was Oc-que-tox-ye, yet, as he succeeded in getting a reservation of his own, he finally accepted the conditions of the treaty and peace prevailed afterward.

After the purchase of the land by our government, in 1833, the Indians remained here until about the year 1835 or when nearly all of them were deported to their new reservation in Missouri, now a part of Kansas. A small number, however, remained here and at the mouth of Fort Jennings a few of the offenders of the merchants fled from Putnam county.

They were not taken after leaving their village here. On their way to their new reservation, an epidemic of small-pox visited them and a large number of the tribe fled from the disease.

The worst enemy that the Indians had while occupying their Ottawa reservation, was the "fire water" furnished them by traders, who were the worst scoundrels of the "boot-legger," and who were the cause of most of the crime that prevailed among the red men at that period. The disease of small-pox was also a great foe among them. It is said that every winter it prevailed among the Indians and caused a great many deaths; in fact, nearly all the deaths by disease were from this cause.

The Ottawa Indians were loath to leave their reservation here. It was an ideal place for making maple sugar, fish were plenty in the river and the territory abounded in game. Ten years after their departure a few of the braves visited this place and remained here for a number of days looking over the land which for so long had been their "happy hunting grounds."

During their occupancy of this reservation, these Indians recognized Pe-ton-i-quet as their chief, yet, in their conversations with the first white settlers, they invariably spoke of him as their "half-chief." On being interrogated as to why they called him their "half-chief," they answered that

Pe-ton-i-quet had a twin-brother who was a chief, and, as the twin brother had been killed, Pe-ton-i-quet could only be a "half-chief" and not a "full-chief." This was the only reason given by them for their designation. However, all mention of Pe-ton-i-quet by the white men who came here from 1833 to 1836 was favorable to him and all these pioneers agreed upon the fact that he was sober in his habits, honest in his dealings and kind in disposition.

THE TAUWAS INDIAN VILLAGE.

The original name of the Indian village located on this reservation was spelled Tauwas, and it so appears in the earliest histories of this part of the state. The name of the village was called Tawa by the early settlers. It is now a part of the town of Ottawa. The village of the Tauwas is known to have been in existence as far back as the year 1750, and was visited by the French missionaries and fur traders from that period as late as 1812, and, in fact, until the year 1832. The village was located on the Indian trace from Wapakoneta to the foot of the Rapids on the Maumee river. This trace crossed the Blanchard river at a point where the river bridge, on the road to Columbus Grove, now stands. The village was supposed to be on this trace and the center of the reservation of five miles square. The village, as it existed in 1830, embraced the territory now north of the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, west of the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, north as far as the Denance pike and west to the river. The most pretentious cabin at that time was the council house, constructed of logs and located on what is now Walnut street, on the west side of the street a short distance beyond Tawa run. The trading cabin of Deardorff & Freede, fur traders, was the next cabin of large size. It was located on the rear of the lot now occupied by Mrs. James Ford, and was used by the early French missionaries in which to hold religious services. A crude altar occupied the east part of the building, and at a window in the east end of which, for years, a lamp was kept burning at all hours. This building was designated a "the light house" by persons traveling the trail from east to west. The Indians had "brushed" about five acres of land, in the river bottom immediately west of their village, which they used to raise corn. This cornfield, with another acre, on what is now the Powell farm, was about all the land they cultivated. During the occupancy of the village two or three families of Indians lived on what is now the Powell farm and an Indian burying ground was also on the farm.

During the occupancy of the village it was frequently visited by various

fur traders, to whom the Indians sold their furs for a mere pittance. For over a year prior to their departure, Pe-tot-o-pet was the only "store keeper" in the village. His stock in trade consisted of powder, lead, iron hoes and axes, together with a stock of beads.

FAIR TREATMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT

In our examination of the various treaties made by our government with the Indians who occupied this part of Ohio, we are impressed with the truth that our government in every instance acted in good faith with the Indians. They paid them a big price for their lands, under existing circumstances, and gave them big annuities in money and large tracts of land for what the government received. If "Lo the poor Indian" was ever cheated or robbed, it was by the individual "pale-face" and not by our government.

ANCIENT BURIAL PLACES IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

From time to time during the past forty years many skeletons of Indians have been unearthed in various parts of Putnam county, in taking gravel and earth from the various moraines which traverse this county. While a majority of these skeletons are found buried in the usual manner, some differ in this respect. In two or three instances, the bodies unearthed have been found to have been buried in a sitting posture, with face toward the east and with a piece of ancient pottery placed upon the top of the head and various trinkets made of stone and copper placed upon the thigh bones of the bodies. The skeletons of the three found showed that they were of larger proportions than those buried differently. The query presents itself as to whether these few skeletons were those of Indians or of a race of people which preceded them. These three skeletons were found near where an artificial mound exists, and where many fragments of pottery have been found.

One fact is evident, namely, that at the time of burial no regular burying ground existed among the race of people to which they belonged.

While the skeletons of Indians have frequently been found in the various moraines, it is evident that they had no regular burying grounds in this county prior to at least the year 1750. From this date regular burying grounds are known to have been in existence here, the fact being established by other ornaments made prior to that date being found in the old Indian burying ground in Ottawa.

The best known and largest burying ground of the Indians in Putnam county, is that of the Ottawas, and especially that of the tribe which made this their abiding place for possibly a century of time, or up to the year 1836. The territory embraced in this ancient burying ground is located south of what is now known as Second street, between the old armory building and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and further south to the old bed of the river.

Another burying ground, probably used prior to the one at Ottawa, was on the Powell farm, a mile east of this place, yet the number of Indians buried there is but small in comparison to those buried at Ottawa, as the latter was used until the departure of the Indians from this county.

In digging trenches and in the cultivation of this latter burying ground several skeletons have been unearthed, and in two instances silver ornaments and trinkets have been found. A number of years ago, in making a grave, Reverend Miller unearthed a skeleton, on the head of which was a large and beautiful silver crown, upon which was artistically engraved a picture of a deer and buffalo, together with etchings, showing a high state of the Indians' art. Recently a couple of skeletons were unearthed, and upon one of them was found a silver ornament, in the shape of a snuff-box. On this ornament was engraved a deer, and the figure also showed a high state of art. At the same time a perfect skull of an Indian was found. The skull was very fine, well proportioned and typical of the early Indian.

The ornaments here mentioned were undoubtedly made in France, during the French occupancy of this territory, prior to the Indian French war and the cession of Britain in the year 1763. At that period of time the French and Indians were close friends, and quite a number of Frenchmen lived among the Indians, sympathized with them and gave them many presents. It is well known, that during the same period they were frequently visited by Jesuit missionaries, sent from France to this country, and who did great work in Christianizing and civilizing the Indians for years afterward. In fact, these missionaries and French fur traders were frequent visitors here up to the time our government came in control of this part of the country.

As the finding of these silver ornaments was accidental, these burying grounds no doubt contain a great many more such ornaments, which may some day be brought to light.

The last Indian who made his home in Tawa village was buried here in the year 1835. One was buried near Ft. Jennings, this county, as late as the year 1838 or 9.

Upon the grounds used here for burial purposes, now and then a silver

burial is found. Travelling houses have been erected and time, to all outside appearances, has obliterated every vestige showing that it was once the burial place of members of a great nation of people of whom Pontiac was a great chief.

Will the time ever come when another race of people can thus write of the burial place of those who now occupy the territory once an abiding place of the Ottawa Indians?

THE OTTAWA INDIAN RESERVATION AND TAWA VILLAGE.

While the Maumee valley was the scene of many stirring events over a century ago, and while the many histories of the state are prolific in reference to the most important of these events, there are many incidents of lesser importance, pertaining to immediate vicinities, which interest those who now have an abode in the particular vicinity in which the events occurred. This is especially true with the descendants of the early pioneers whose ancestors were familiar with the local events, either by participation in or by traditions obtained from the remnant of a great tribe of red men, who at the time were occupants, if not owners, of the country now possessed by the white man.

On the 20th day of September, 1817, our government, through its commissioners, Gen. Lewis Cass and Gen. Duncan McArthur, negotiated a treaty with the remnant of the Ottawa tribes in this part of the country. This treaty, in article six, stipulates that "there shall also be reserved for the use of the Ottawa Indians, but not granted to them, a tract of land on Blanchard's fork of the great Anglaise river, to contain five miles square, the center of which tract is to be where the old trail crosses the said fork, and one other tract to contain three miles square on the little Anglaise river, to include Ockiqueno's village."

As usual, this seemingly generous gift to the "noble red man" had a "string" to it and he could only possess the broad acres for such a time as the government might decree. The more intelligent of the Indians, of course, did not like the treaty, but as they rendered but little or no service to our government during the War of 1812, they were not in position to object, and therefore sulkily acquiesced in the treaty.

From 1812, Tawa village consisted of some twenty five "shack" or cabins, some of which possessed the dignity of a cabin, the most being constructed of a few poles set in the ground and covered with bark. This village was located on both banks of Tawa run and extended from the Om-

canal, Hamilton & Dayton railroad to the mouth of the river. These, with a few "shacks" located near what is now known as "Gypsy Lane," constituted the abode of all the Ottawa Indians in this immediate vicinity.

During the period from 1812 to 1817, we cannot furnish the names of the chiefs who headed the tribe, but have been informed that there were several and that considerable jealousy existed among them in regard to this matter, and that two of the chiefs were killed by members of their own tribe on account of these jealousies.

When Colonel Hollister, as commissioner, deported the remnants of all the tribes, it was difficult to get them to go to their new home, now in Franklin county, Kansas. Some forty of those located here and on the Auglaize refused to go, among whom were Pe-ton-i-quet, Tom Kinzie Mino, Black Jonathan and the vagabond, Tom. However, these, with the remainder of the forty, were, a year or two afterward, gathered together and taken to their new reservation beyond the Mississippi, so that in the year 1840 not a single man of the tribe was to be found within the confines of this county.

Other Indians of the Ottawa tribe, under the chiefs No-wah, Ockquenox, Charloe, Ottaca, also disappeared from this part of the state, and this was the "last of the Ottawas" so far as northwestern Ohio is concerned. Among these chiefs, Ockquenox was possibly the greatest warrior. He was brave, and as cruel as he was brave, and dissipation in the end made him a very bad Indian. He was hard to conciliate, and it took three miles square of very good land to square him with the government. About the year 1827 he killed his son-in-law and grandson, for which crime he was tried by a council of chiefs and sentenced to be beheaded. However, instead of carrying out this sentence, one of deposition was substituted.

FORT JENNINGS

In 1812-13, during the war of this period, General Harrison erected a fort on the Auglaize river and named it Ft. Jennings, in honor of Colonel James W. Jennings, the location of this fort, where the village of Ft. Jennings now stands. It was established as a base for supplies and an intermediate between Ft. Recovery and Ft. Detmold. Colonel Jennings, with three regiments of militia, was stationed for some time at the fort awaiting the arrival of troops who were detained by bad water. While there, detachments from the regiments were sent down the Auglaize and up the Blanchard and Hoar creek, to ascertain the situation among the Indians, the Ottawa tribe being regarded as very friendly to our government.

On one of these expeditions a detachment of militia came to Tawa village and camped on the south bank of the river, where the ice house of Mr. Myers is now located. The militia remained for about a week, and while there, burned the village, the Indians having left, taking with them all the camp equipage they could conveniently carry, hiding the remainder and burying their grain before leaving. The troops also destroyed the "shacks" east of Ottawa, on the Agner farm.

At the close of the war the Indians again made Tawa village their home. They built a number of "shacks" and several cabins. They were here but a short portion of their time, being frequently away on hunting expeditions. For a number of years they led a dissolute life and did nothing in particular to attract more than passing notice.

About the year 1816-17, they selected Pe-ton-i-quet as their chief. Pe-ton-i-quet was not a full blooded Indian, his father being a Frenchman and his mother an Ottawa squaw. In intelligence he was far ahead of his tribe, the greater part of which were not a very high type of even the red man. He was a man of integrity, an honest trader and humane in his relations with the Indian and white man, both of whom had confidence in his honesty.

From 1817 to the time when the tribes were deported to Kansas, they lived a dissolute life. "Fire water" had been introduced among them to such an extent that dissipation had made them physical wrecks. This, with disease, had greatly reduced their number, deaths being double that of births.

A BILLOU SQUAW FESTIVE

Among the Ottawa Indians of this reservation was one called Tom. Tom was the most worthless vagabond known to exist among all the tribes of the Ottawas. He was a thief and an habitual drunkard, too lazy even to hunt or fish. He had a wonderful thirst for strong liquor; being drunk was his normal condition, being sober the exception. Tom, when on an extra big drunk, celebrated the occasion by whipping his squaw. The squaws, to curry favor with him, furnished him an extra amount of "red liquor," which made him helplessly drunk. While in this condition they caught him, took him down along the river bank and, after divesting him of all his clothing, took liquor each by and left him all night to the mercy of the mosquitoes. It is said that on morning Tom was scarcely recognizable by any of his companions. This law of oppression worked to the full satisfaction of the squaws, and ever afterward, when Tom became abusive, all they had to do was to "take" the same and he fully understood their meaning. Tom

went west with the other Indians of his tribe, who were very anxious to leave him behind and tried many plans to consummate their desire.

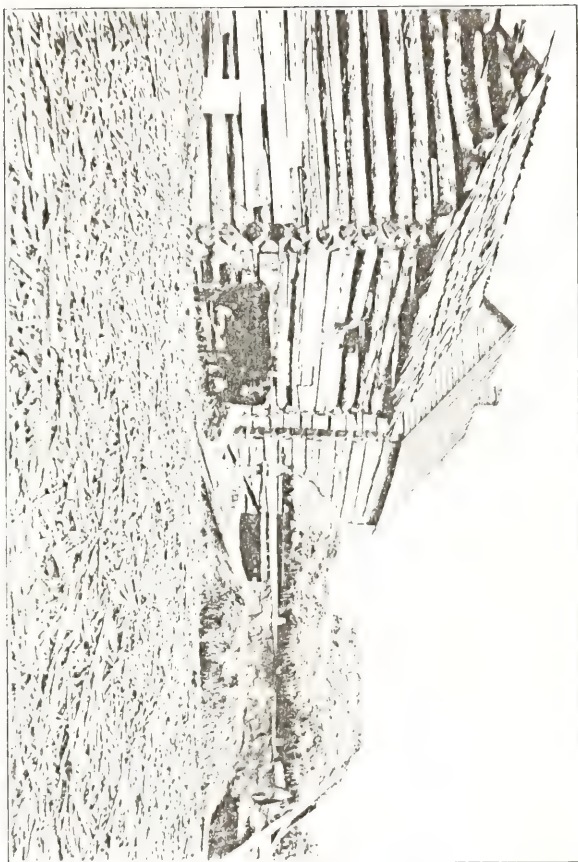
A TOUGH CITIZEN OF THE RESERVATION.

While Tom was a very worthless Indian, he was a saint in comparison with a vagabond Englishman, who came to the reservation about the year 1820. His name was John Race and his wife was a half-breed Indian squaw. They lived in a cabin located on the southeast corner of what is now the county fair grounds. Race was supposed to have been a refugee who sought seclusion among the Indians to avoid punishment for some crime he had committed elsewhere. He was of vicious temper and was always scheming to make trouble between the Indians and the early white settlers who came here some years later. He resorted to the most contemptible means to foment discord. An incident is related wherein he almost succeeded in causing serious trouble. He had a daughter aged about eleven years. One day the daughter was found dead along the river bank near his cabin. She had been shot, the bullet passing through her head. Race said that the girl had been killed by a certain white settler with whom he had had some difficulty. The fact of his having an Indian wife and he being intimate with the Indians, caused a number of them to believe his statement and for a short time considerable anxiety existed among the earlier settlers. Some years later, Race severely chastized his wife and she, in retaliation, stated that it was he who had killed his own child because the girl refused to do some trifling thing he had commanded. It was said that the little girl was very pretty and that she was white and possessed no marks of the Indian, notwithstanding her mother was a squaw. The little girl was the first white child buried on the reservation. She was laid to rest a few rods from where the grand stand on the fair grounds now stands. Orho Crawfis, Sr., and George Agner, Sr., from whom the writer of this article obtained his information, were present at the burial.

"THE LIGHT HOUSE."

Perhaps there may be a difference of opinion among the descendants of the early pioneers of this locality as to where, when and by whom, the first light house or cabin was built on ground now a part of Ottawa. The writer is inclined to conceive that the first hewn log cabin built by a white man on the reservation was one built, about the year 1817, 18, by French trader, who came here to trade with the Indian. This was a hewed

A REMINDER OF PIONEER DAYS



the cabin and the only one of the kind found here in 1833-4, when the first settlers came. This cabin was then in such a decayed condition that it was not fit for occupancy. The roof had tumbled in and weeds had grown up inside and outside of it. This cabin was located on the lot now owned and occupied by Mrs. James Ford. William Galbreath later took the logs to his farm along the river. The Indians called it the "Light House," possibly from the fact that the fur traders kept a light burning in the cabin throughout the night. The cabin was also used by the early missionaries, who made it their home while here on their labors among the Indians. There is a tradition connected with this cabin to the effect that it was built by the traders prior to the year 1812, and that when Tawa village was burned the cabin was not disturbed, from the fact that evidence existed that it was used by the missionaries as a place of worship. However there is no reliable information to substantiate this tradition. The only thing confirmatory is the dilapidated condition of the cabin at the time when the first settlers came as it was then a ruin, the ravages of time and the elements having produced the decay. It may have been built as tradition states. However, when the first settlers came here there was a large cabin still standing. It was sided with shingles or iron logs, and was occupied by a fur trader named Fredee, who was a Frenchman. A man named Dearloff, also a Frenchman, occupied the cabin after Fredee. This cabin was the most pretentious in the village at that time.

THE SUGAR CAMPS OF THE INDIANS.

About the only industry, outside of hunting and fishing, indulged in by the Indians of this reservation, was that of making sugar from the sap of the sugar maple tree. That this industry was carried on by the Ottawa Indians at a very early date, there is much evidence available. The principal sugar camps in the reservation were located but a short distance east and west of Tawa village. The one at the east was the most extensive and was located in the bend of the river east of the county fair grounds, while that on the west was located south of the Defiance road on what is known as the Galbreath farm, where yet remain quite a number of very old sugar trees. The trees constituting the larger camp, that east of the village, were tapped for sap as late as the year 1870 by the owners of the land. In that year the ground was cleared of the trees by David Cox, who owned the land at that time. In converting the trees into firewood the Indian process of tapping was plainly to be seen, although the trees had grown to much greater dimensions during nearly the half century which had passed since the Indians had utilized them.

CHAPTER IV.

EARLY SETTLERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, 1824-1834.

The first white family in Putnam county was that of Henry Leaf, who built a cabin on the south side of the Blanchard river, on section 10, Greensburg township, where he remained some time. He removed from that point and built another cabin on the Auglaize river, at the junction of the Blanchard with the Auglaize, where he was living in 1824. This man could hardly be considered a resident of the county, as he lived with the Indians, moved when they did, and when they were removed to the West, he went with them, and ended his days there.

In 1824, David Murphy, with his family, came down the Blanchard river in a canoe from Fort Findlay, landed at the mouth of the Blanchard, built a cabin of poles, and became the first permanent white settler in the county. His wife was the first person buried in the cemetery at Kalida, and at her side the remains of her husband were deposited. During the year 1824, Silas McClish, Thomas McClish and Jack McClish settled a mile below Murphy on the west side of the Auglaize. William Bowen settled three miles south, and William Patton fourteen miles south.

1825—Henry Wing, Daniel Sullivan, William Craig, Daniel Pelke, Sebastian Sroufe and Thaddeus Harris.

1826—John Rodenour and his sons, Michael, Daniel and Jacob; Demmitt Mackerel, Frederick and William Stevens, William H. Harris and Samuel Washburne.

1827—Josiah Clawson, Joel Wilcox, William Bishop, William Cochran, Cephas Cary, John Cary, Philip Comer and William Scott.

1828—William Frasee, David Sroufe, Henry Comer, A. E. Martin, Robert Martin and Solomon Sprague.

1829—S. L. Norris, Ellison Ladd and Jonathan Wiland.

1830—William Clevenger, Nutter and Joshua Powell, Isaac Owens, Joseph, Samuel, Jacob and George Clevenger.

1831—Peter Rhodes, Abraham Sarber, O. W. Crawfis, Samuel Hall and John Guffy.

1832—Jacob Rimer, Abraham Hardin, J. R. Rimer, John Myers, Sr., Abraham and Jane Crow, Obed Martin, Samuel Hall and H. M. Crawfis.

1833—J. V. Sackett, John Sigafos, Stansbury Sutton, Hiram Sarber, Frederick Brower, John B. Bogart, Adam Sarber, William Guffy, James Nicholas, Thomas Watkins, Henry Wellman and C. Raabe.

1834—William Galbreath, Enoch Wicks, John Crawfis, Moses Lee, Hugh Crawford, Robert and Isaac McCracken, Sheldon Guthrie and many others.

Anthony S. S. S.

THE GERMAN-SWISS SETTLEMENT.

By U. S. Steiner.

It is now nearly eighty-two years since the Germans, or rather Swiss and French, commenced what has become well known as the "German settlement" and a short history of it, and a few incidents of pioneer life may not be uninteresting. In the spring of 1838, Michael Neuenschwander (a native of Alsace, who came to this country in 1823 and settled in Wayne county) and his eldest son, John B., a young man of twenty three, came west to seek a new home. Their object was to find an unoccupied place, that could be developed into a rich country, where land could be bought cheap. Having heard of such a place in Putnam county (Richland township was then a part of Putnam county), they came directly here and, being pleased with it, picked out two quarter sections. They then went down to Piqua, where the government land office was located, and entered the land. One of these pieces was cleared up and occupied by Daniel Neuenschwander until his death, which occurred on August 2, 1893. They then went back home to Wayne county, this state, and made preparation to leave for the west—the new home in the wilderness. They started on the last Friday in August, 1833, and arrived at their destination in eleven days, which was doing well, as it took some who came after them fourteen days. The family was composed of the parents and three sons, John B., aged twenty-three, Daniel, twenty-one, and Michael, ten years. They came in a covered wagon, with a team of horses and a yoke of oxen before it. It was very dry when they arrived and, as there was no water on their land, they sought another quarter section where water was plentiful and found one. This was afterward occupied by the family and the youngest son, Michael, until their deaths, that of the mother occurring on February 13, 1846, in her sixty-seventh year; that of the father on March 10, 1854, aged seventy-four years and one day, and that of the son, Michael, on July 22, 1893. Again the father and eldest son went to Piqua to secure that land, and while they were gone the mother and the other two boys camped on an island in Riley creek,

near Abraham Basinger's, during which time Daniel watched the horses and cattle, and also made a pair of shoes. When the father and son returned, they moved on the last-entered land, on which they had a spring and creek, and commenced putting up a cabin and preparing for winter. That winter was so mild that the ground never froze hard enough to bear up a loaded wagon. Their neighbors were Thomas Gray, on the farm now occupied by Abraham Bixel; John Sigafosse, on the one now occupied by Jacob Lugibill; Christopher Miller, west of Rockport, and John Stout, near Pandora, then called Pendleton.

They were here a year before others followed, but in the fall of 1834 there came an addition of four families, that of Christian Suter, afterward minister and bishop of the congregation; Dorse Amstutz; Christian Bucher, who died at the advanced age of one hundred years, seven months and twenty-two days, and John Moser, who subsequently moved to Lucas county. A good many came here that year to secure land and moved on it later. In 1853, and later on, people flocked in from Switzerland, Alsace, and Wayne and Holmes counties, Ohio, Virginia, etc., among whom were the Steiners, Schumachers, Basingers, Lugibills, Geigers and others.

HARDSHIPS OF THE PIONEERS.

The hardships of the pioneers can be better imagined than expressed. Think of going to Piqua without more of a road than a cow path, or hardly that. The land office was afterward moved to Wapakoneta. The first flour that Mr. Neuenschwander bought was at Sidney, but they soon commenced to keep it at Lima, and then it was considered so handy to get that Mr. Neuenschwander thought he would lay in a supply. He needed a good deal, as all who came to look at land stayed with him, so he bought eleven barrels at one time, at eleven dollars per barrel. His son Daniel packed it all home on one horse. He said there was no hour in the night that he was not on his way between here and Lima. He had a big horse, would throw a sack or two on his back, get on himself and start for home, it made no difference whether it was day or night, as the horse would keep the path. One evening he started from Lima after dark, in company with two other men. Alternately one rode and the other two walked behind; when about two miles from home the hat of the rider was caught by a limb and dropped, and they had to search about half an hour before they found it, as it was very dark and they had no means of making a light. Once or twice they went to Maumee City to mill, and when good mills were put up at Delphos and the

canal was built, that place became a good market, which was considered very handy. The first year that Mr. Neuenschwander was here the two eldest boys went to Eagle Creek, Hancock county, for a load of corn. They started home from there one morning after breakfast, and it took them till noon the next day to get home, during which time they had nothing to eat but raw corn. At another time, when they had wheat to sell, the same two started, each with a load of thirty-two bushels and a double team. They went to Findlay, where they were offered fifty cents a bushel for their wheat, but refused to take it, and went on to Sandusky where they got sixty-two cents. It took them thirteen days to make the trip, during which time they had no warm meals and slept in no bed.

Daniel also hauled wheat for neighbors to Tiffin; the wheat was sold for from sixty to seventy cents per bushel, he getting twenty cents a bushel for hauling. Other settlers had the same experiences, but it seems that they were all able to meet the severest hardships of those times without a murmur of discontent and always looked at the brightest side. But few of the first settlers are still living, John F. Steiner and Henry Shank, both over ninety years of age, Mrs. John S. Steiner, Peter Bucher and wife, Peter and Mrs. Chr. Suter, Barbara Basinger, Barbara Schumacher and probably a few others. B. Lugbill, who was born in 1836, is the oldest voter born in Richland township.

PIONEER HONEYMOONS.

A year after Mr. Neuenschwander moved here his two eldest sons, John B. and Daniel, went back to Wayne county and were both married on August 11, 1834. They soon returned with their young and happy wives. They had one horse and the women might have ridden him alternately, but Daniel's wife was not used to riding horseback and preferred to walk; they made the trip, so they claimed, in three days. A year later, September 15, a daughter was born to John B. and wife, who died several years ago in Kansas; and two months later a daughter was also born to Daniel and wife. This one became the wife of the writer of this sketch and never lived over a mile from where she was born. Now in the eightieth year of her age she is still hearty, though she had rather more than her share of the hardships and privations of that pioneer life. Mrs. Peter Bixel (nee Suter) was the first person born here who grew up. These pioneers can truly say that they first beheld the country a wilderness and saw it changed into a garden; and out of a comparatively sickly country (there being malaria at times) made one conducive to health and long life.

THE MENNONITES.

The Wyandot Indians were still at Upper Sandusky and often passed through here on their way to Defiance and return, but the settlers were never molested by them. The "settlement" has continually widened and its borders almost reach Beaverdam, Rockport, Columbus Grove, and Gilboa. Bluffton and Pandora are about it. The prevailing religion is the Mennonite, but they are unhappily divided into four denominations; however, the original congregation is keeping the lead and has about nine hundred and fifty members. The preaching is mostly in German language and the schools are still taught in the English and German languages. We said above that the original congregation has nine hundred and fifty members; the American Mennonites have upward of twenty families; the New Mennonites about twenty, and the Egly congregation is quite small, many of its former adherents having joined the Alliance and the Dowie faith.

The people, as a rule, are generous, industrious, economical and pious, and the settlement stands second to no other place, probably in the whole United States, in regard to good roads, good buildings and beautiful farms.

Most of the Mennonites are strong adherents of the creed laid down by their founder and subsequent teachers. A few adhere to a peculiar garb and other antique practices, but in the main they are moving along with the stream of time, though guarding diligently against all innovations that might be a serious injury to their good name, their homes and their church. They are greatly opposed to secret societies, and have been very successful so far in keeping their members out of them. The old and the Zion congregation have elected most all their preachers so far by lot and they generally have from two to four; they have even elected their deacons the same way, all for life, whether they prove to be competent or not, but we venture the prediction that this practice will soon die out and that they will choose and treat their ministers the same as other churches do. The New Mennonites and the Egly's choose their ministers from their own members and put them on probation. These different churches have five Sunday schools, four young people's societies and two women's sewing circles.

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

In Chapter I, on related state history, an account is given of the organization of the Northwest Territory and the creation of the state of Ohio. From the day the state was admitted to the Union, March 1, 1803, down to the present time, comprises a period of one hundred and twelve years. Starting out with less than a dozen counties in 1803, the state now has eighty-eight counties, which have been organized from year to year as the territory was bought from the Indians and settled up by the whites.

The territory now comprised within the limits of Putnam county was originally within two separate Indian cessions, the Ottawa Reserve, of twenty five miles, and that secured by the treaty of September 20, 1817. This treaty was consummated at the Foot of the Rapids of Lake Erie and was negotiated by Lewis Cass and Duncan McArthur, commissioners on the part of the United States, and the many different chiefs and sachems, representing the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, Pottawattamie, Ottawa and Chippewa tribes of Indians.

The state Legislature of Ohio, by the act of February 12, 1820, organized Putnam county with the following limits: "Towns 1 and 2 south, and 1 and 2 north of ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8, east of the first meridian of Ohio." Each town (or township, as they are now called) contained thirty-six sections, one mile square, the whole county containing five hundred and seventy-six square miles. The county was cut off from Williams county, but the population was so sparse that it was not until fourteen years later that the county was formally organized and permitted to take its place as an independent political district. The scarcity of population is shown by the fact that only one hundred and sixty three votes were cast at the first election in 1834.

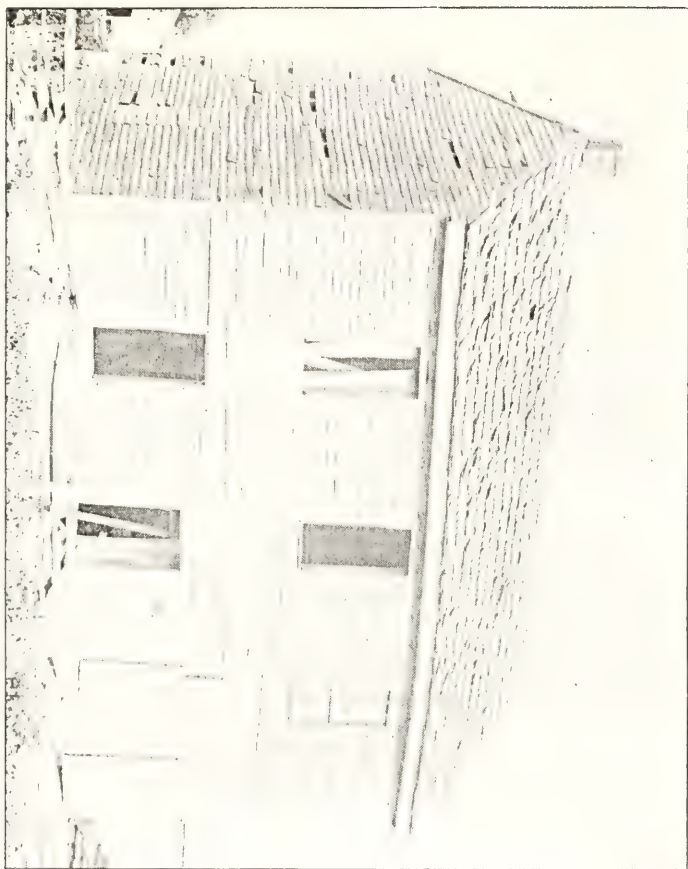
It is very unfortunate that the early court records of the county are not complete, due to the burning of the court house at Kalida in the fall of 1864, but the first steps in the definite organization of the county have been well established. In accordance with a legislative act, passed in 1834, the governor of the state appointed William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish as associate judges of the court of common pleas of the county. These men

were intrusted with the duty of formally organizing the county and, pursuant to the act providing for their appointment, they met on May 8, 1834, at the house of Abraham Sarber, in Kalida, and took the first steps in starting the county. After being sworn in as provided by law, they proceeded to complete the organization of the county by appointing Daniel W. Gray as clerk of the court; Amos Evans, prosecuting attorney; Abraham Sarber, town clerk; Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Myers, county commissioners; F. C. Fitch, surveyor; John Cochran, A. E. Martin, Isaac Owens, James Nichols and Daniel W. Gray, school examiners. The judges concluded their day's work by ordering an election to be held on the thirty-first of the same month for the purpose of electing a sheriff and coroner. Thus was Putnam county ushered in as an independent county and may it be said to the credit of these first county officials that they performed their several duties in such a manner as to earn the commendation of their fellow citizens. Their duties were not onerous, in view of the fact that the county was very thinly settled, but what they did do was done in an efficient and painstaking manner.

LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT.

For some reason which has not been ascertained, the county seat was definitely located in 1829, five years before the county was organized. The state Legislature, by the act of February 12, 1829, appointed a commission to locate and name a county seat, and it is presumed that the site the commission finally selected was the center of population of the county. Kalida, the site finally chosen, is located in section 5, township 1 south, range 6 east. This little village was located near the confluence of Plum and Sugar creeks and is now in Union township. After the organization of the county, on May 8, 1834, the county commissioners purchased all of section 5, which had not been previously bought, had it laid off into lots and ordered the town director to sell the lots at the best possible price. The money thus obtained was to be used in the erection of a court house and jail. A frame court house was built and a jail of heavy timbers was hastily erected to accommodate the few offenders who might need incarceration. In 1839 these frame structures were replaced by substantial brick buildings in Kalida and they remained in use until December 18, 1864, when the court house was burned down. On October 9, 1866, an election removed the county seat to Ottawa, where it has since remained. The vote to change the county seat was carried by a majority of four hundred and eighty-five. The citizens of

PITMAN COUNTY'S FIRST COURT HOUSE, AT KALIDA



Ottawa deposited fifteen thousand dollars with the county commissioners to guarantee the erection of a court house.

CHANGES IN AREA.

It has been stated that the county of Putnam was organized with an area of five hundred and seventy-six square miles and it retained this area until 1848, when Auglaize county was organized by the state Legislature. At this time Richland township, the southeastern township of the county, was detached and made a part of Allen county. The following separate tracts were also taken from Putnam county at that time and added to Allen county, the southern tier of sections of Riley township; the entire township of Monroe (township 2 south, range 7 east); three tiers of sections from the south side of Sugar Creek township; three tiers of sections from the south side of Jennings township. These deductions from the original area of Putnam county were partially offset by the addition of the eastern half of township 1 south, range 4 east, now a part of Monterey township, which had been a part of VanWert county. By these various changes the county was reduced to an area of four hundred and eighty square miles and this has remained the area of the county down to the present time. However, it should be noted that the territory detached meant a great loss to the county. It included much of the best improved land of the county and contained the thriving villages and towns of Bluffton, Beaver Dam, West Cairo and that part of Delphos situated east of the Miami and Erie extension canal. In May, 1853, the county commissioners of Allen and Putnam counties met and agreed upon the sum of three thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight dollars and seventy-six cents, due Putnam county from Allen county, as compensation for territory taken from Putnam and added to Allen county.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

There were some townships organized within the present limits of Putnam county before it was formally organized in 1834. With the many changes in county limits and the increase in population from year to year, new townships were created and the limits of old townships were changed. The following table exhibits the organization of the various townships of the county, and the history of the townships will be taken up in the order of their creation:

Townships.	Organized.	Square Miles.
Perry -----	1828	30
Union -----	1832	30
Sugar Creek -----	1832	30
Jackson -----	1832	26
Jennings -----	1833	28
Blanchard -----	1833	36
Pleasant -----	1834	36
Riley -----	1834	30
Greensburg -----	1834	30
Ottawa -----	1835	36
Liberty -----	1837	36
Van Buren -----	1843	36
Monterey -----	1850	24
Monroe -----	1852	36
Palmer -----	1854	36

The exact dates of the organization of these various townships has not been ascertained owing to the absence of the early commissioners' and trustees' records, but it is believed that the dates as stated above are correct. They were given by the late George Skinner in his history of the county in 1880 and he was as good an authority on the history of the county as any man then living. Mention has been made of the decrease in the original area of the county with the detachment of a strip of varying width which was taken from the county in 1848 and added to Allen county. Two whole townships were detached at that time—Richland and Monroe, being south of Riley and Pleasant townships, respectively. One tier of townships was taken from Riley township and added to Richland and after the latter was joined to Allen county it still retained its old name as a part of Allen county. Sugar Creek township was halved by the act of 1848 and both halves retain the old name. Jennings township was also cut in two, but the part added to Allen became a part of Marion township in the latter county. Monterey township, three by six miles, was organized from territory which was taken from VanWert county by the Legislature. Many of these townships have had some changes in their limits at various times.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The following is a list, as nearly as can be ascertained, of the officials of Putnam county since its organization in 1831:

CLERK OF COURTS.

Daniel W. Gray, 1834-37; James Taylor, 1837-44; Moses Lee, 1844-51; R. W. Thrift, 1851-52; David L. Brown, 1852-58; John Buchanan, 1858-64; R. J. Spelman, 1864-70; Samuel B. Rice, 1870-76; John T. Thrift, 1876-79; Jacob J. Zeller, 1879-85; R. J. Spelman, 1885-87; H. W. Schmitschulte, 1887-95; Christ Beutler, 1895-1901; A. P. Sandles, 1901-07; Joseph H. Gosling, 1907-1911; W. M. George, 1911 to the present time.

All of these officials have been elected by the Democratic party with the exception of John T. Thrift.

AUDITOR.

The county records do not show who the auditor was at the time the county was organized in 1834. For many years the auditor was elected every two years, but since the change in the constitution he holds for four years. One of the odd things disclosed by the old records was the name of "Sam Weaver," when his name should have been Samuel P. or S. P. Weaver. Reed and Jones are the only Republicans ever elected to the office, although it is thought that Creighton, because he served only one term, was a Whig. The list as taken from the records is as follows: W. Risley, 1838-44; J. E. Creighton, 1844-46; Neham Smith, 1846-50; William Bell, 1850-54; John Monroe, 1854-58; J. H. Smith, 1858-62; F. H. Rothman, 1862-66; Sam Weaver, 1866-70; John Deffenbaugh, 1870-74; Bernard Lehmkuhle, 1874-78; Louis Lehmkuhle, 1878-84; William Place, 1884-90; W. F. Reed, 1890-93; Aaron Overbeck, 1893-96; J. C. Jones, 1896-99; L. N. Welde, 1899-1905; Joseph Kersting, 1905-11; J. E. Roose, 1911 to the present time.

RECORDER.

Moses Lee, 1834-41; Jabez S. Spencer, 1841-47; John Dixon, 1847-49; Jabez S. Spencer, 1849-53; F. W. Scherloh, 1853 (appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Spencer, and served until the close of the term); Joseph Tingle, 1853-56; John Nicewarner, 1856-59; Peter J. Bowman, 1859-65; James Monroe, 1865-72; W. N. Wetherell, 1872-78; William Alt, 1878-84; L. M. Ludwig, 1884-90; Joseph Justice, 1890-96; John Cowan, 1896-1902; Frank Gmeiner, 1902-09; H. C. Hummon, 1909-1912; Theodore Heckman, 1912 to the present time.

TREASURER.

The first transaction in the treasurer's office of Putnam county reads as follows: "July 1, 1834 Received cash of Abraham Sarber, town director of Kalida, \$1,388." All of the treasurers have been Democrats with the exception of W. S. Lenhart. C. M. Godfrey was probably a Democrat at the time he was elected, although he later became one of the pillars of the Republican party in this county. The complete list of treasurers follows: J. M. Cochran, 1834-37; Moses Lee, 1837-39; F. H. Gillette, 1839-43; C. M. Godfrey, 1843-47; O. W. Crawfis, Sr., 1847-51; Stansbury Sutton, 1851-55; Z. R. McClure, 1855-59; F. S. Godfrey, 1859-63; N. H. McCracken, 1863-67; Henry Montooth, 1867-71; William McClure, 1871-February 11, 1875; Stansbury Sutton, February 11, 1875-September, 1875 (McClure died in office and Sutton was appointed to fill his unexpired term); N. H. McCracken, 1875-79; H. L. McDowell, 1879-83; L. N. Parker, 1883-87; O. W. Crawfis, Jr., 1887-91; W. S. Lenhart, 1891-93; Joseph Leopold, 1893-97; Ralph G. Spencer, 1897-1901; George D. Kinder, 1901-05; Herman McDougale, 1905-1909; Frank J. Kohls, 1909-13; Charles E. Kohls, 1913 to the present time.

SHERIFF.

Every sheriff of Putnam county has been elected by the Democrats and, judging from the majorities which the sheriffs have been receiving, it seems like it will be many years yet before this unbroken record will be changed. Many of these sheriffs could tell some very interesting stories if they cared to disclose their experiences while in the discharge of their duties. One sheriff, Sherrard, hung a man by the name of Goodman on the spot where the old jail stood. It is probable that Sherrard had more exciting experiences than any other sheriff. The most famous jail delivery the county has ever known occurred during his administration, when murderer Goodman and several other prisoners tried to escape. Sherrard was struck with a brick-bat in a stocking by one of the prisoners, and the desperate criminals seized his keys and made a dash for liberty. Fortunately, nearly all were captured within a short time. The complete list of sheriffs of the county is as follows: William Cochran, Jr., 1834-38; David S. Gibbs, 1838-42; T. R. McClure, 1842-46; L. H. Vail, 1846-48; R. Douglass, 1848-52; John B. Fruehcy, 1852-56; James H. Vail, 1856-60; William Craybill, 1860-62; John Cunningham, 1862-66; W. W. Cartwright, 1866-70; Louis W. Albright, 1870-74; Henry Sherrard, 1874-78; Josiah Markley, 1878-82; Frank Rothman; Peter Wamte-

nacher, 1886-90; David C. Williamson, 1890-92; Frank E. Treece, 1892-94; B. F. Burgess, 1894-98; Nicholas Miller, 1898-1902; Frank E. Treece, 1902-1906; Joseph Zink, 1906-11; Nicholas F. Miller, 1911-15; A. L. Tate, 1915 to the present time.

CORONER.

The first coroner, William Turner, was appointed by the court in the spring of 1834, and the first man elected to the office was James Taylor, who was elected in the fall of the same year. The coroners do not see to have left definite records, or at least there does not appear a complete list of these officials in the county records. The following roster is as complete as the records show: William Turner, 1834; James Taylor, 1834-38; Henry Blosser, 1850-54; Chris Raabe, 1866-70; John W. Vaughn, 1870-74; David Waltner, Jr., 1874-78; Joseph Fouriner, 1878-82; H. J. Rader, 1882-86; Jacob F. Lettler, 1886-90; S. F. DeFord, 1890-94; G. A. Light, 1894-98; E. J. Dech, 1898-1900 (re-elected in 1900, but resigned and A. F. Sheibley was appointed to fill out the term); A. F. Sheibley, 1902-06; E. L. Tupper, 1906-10; A. F. Sheibley, 1910 to the present time.

SURVEYOR.

F. C. Fitch, 1834-37; E. B. Fitch, 1837-40; Benjamin A. Dunning, 1840-43; Elias Everett, 1843-45; L. E. Hawley, 1845-49; Jacob Blosser, 1849-52; Samuel Parker, 1852-58; John Sheakley, 1858-62; D. S. Crites, 1862-63; C. A. McDowell, 1863-65; H. E. Knowles, 1865-70; Lewis E. Holtz, 1870-76; Aaron Overbeck, 1876-82; Elias W. Dimock, 1882-88; Daniel W. Seitz, 1888-94; James D. Huddle, 1894-1900; O. C. Talbot, 1900-06; John T. Maidlow, 1906-11; J. S. Cartwright, 1911-15; Perry Ford, 1915 to the present time.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

The first prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, Amos Evans, received the munificent salary of fifty dollars a year; the present prosecutor is paid a yearly stipend of seventeen hundred dollars. The term was at first two years, then changed to three, and is now two years. Many of the incumbents of this office in the county have become among the strongest members of the local bar. The complete roster follows: Amos Evans, 1834-35; Hamilton Davidson, 1835-37; Francis H. Gillette, 1837-39; Edson Goit, 1839-40; William G. Burge, 1840-41; William L. Rose, 1841-42; A. A. Skinner, 1842-45;

George L. Higgins, 1845-46; James McKenzie, 1846-53; Azariah Budd, 1853-57; James McKenzie, 1857-1859; Azariah Budd, 1859-61; James C. Gribben, 1861-62; David L. Brown, 1862-63; J. R. Linn, 1863-67; James Anderson, 1867-71; Stansberry Sutton, 1871-75; A. V. Watts, 1875-79; James T. Lentzy, 1879-83; William C. G. Krauss, 1883-86; John P. Bailey, 1886-92; Charles Frayer, 1895-95; James P. Leasure, 1895-98; G. W. Risser, 1898-1904; B. A. Unverferth, 1904-09; J. W. Smith, 1909-1913; A. A. Slaybaugh, 1913 to the present time.

PROBATE JUDGE.

The office of probate judge was created by the constitution of 1852 and was again recognized by the constitution of 1912. It is interesting to note that a majority of the probate judges of Putnam county have not been lawyers. The first man elected to the position, John Dixon, was a lawyer. Taylor was a veteran of the Civil War and a merchant of Kalida. Kuhns was a real estate agent and held the office for twelve years, the longest of any incumbent. Gordon was a contractor and was recorder of Butler county several terms before coming to Putnam county. Bacon was a druggist; Uphaus, a manufacturer; Thomas, a lawyer; Armstrong, a farmer; Powell and Boehmer, lawyers; Heidlebaugh, a school teacher; Mersman, a manufacturer.

The complete list follows: John Dixon, 1852-55; A. J. Taylor, 1855-61; John Kuhns, 1861-73; John H. Gordon, 1873-79; Samuel S. Bacon, 1879-85; John H. Uphaus, 1885-91; A. Z. Thomas, 1891-97 (died in office and the governor appointed David N. Powell to fill the unexpired term. Powell served from February 15 to October 15, 1897); J. B. Armstrong, 1897 (Mr. Armstrong was elected to fill the unexpired term of Thomas); Amos Boehmer, 1897-1903; A. M. Heidlebaugh, 1903-09; Joseph Mersman, 1909 to the present time.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The first board of county commissioners was appointed May 5, 1834, by the associate judges. They were Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Meyers. In October of the same year, an election was held for county commissioners and the following were elected: William Priddy, Benjamin Clevenger and Sheldon Guthrie. The complete list since that time follows:

1835, Isaac McCracken and Joel Wilcox; 1836, Christian Huber; 1837, William Scott; 1838, Christian Huber; 1839, William Scott; 1840, J. D.

Wamsley; 1841, Christian Huber; 1842, James Belford; 1843, W. B. Thrapp; 1844, Nicholas McConnell; 1845, W. B. Thrapp; 1846, Nicholas McConnell; 1847, S. Ramsey; 1848, H. J. Boehmer; 1849, William Kilpatrick; 1850, H. J. Boehmer; 1851, Samuel Prekey; 1852, Henry Kicheffer; 1853, Clark H. Rice; 1854, William Krause; 1855, Henry Kicheffer; 1856, Clark H. Rice; 1857, Robert Stewart; 1858, William Krause; 1859, O. W. Crawfis; 1860, John Dittenbaugh; 1861, Conrad Henry; 1862, Simon Maple; 1863, Conrad Henry; 1864, John Dittenbaugh; 1865, Simon Maple; 1866, Herman Recker; 1867, Conrad Henry and B. H. Lehmkuhle; 1868, Herman Recker; 1869, Michael Bridenbaugh; 1870, B. H. Lehmkuhle; 1871, W. W. Place; 1872, Michael Bridenbaugh; 1873, Charles Wannemacher; 1874, W. W. Place; 1875, William Schaffer; 1876, Charles Wannemacher; 1877, C. F. Mallahan and Jarvis Postlewait (the latter appointed); 1878, William Schaffer and James H. Smith (the latter elected to fill vacancy); 1879, Ferd Unterbrink; 1880, Thomas J. Williams; 1881, John H. George; 1882, Ferd Unterbrink; 1883, William Boehmer; 1884, John F. George; 1885, John T. Mallahan; 1886, William Boehmer; 1887, James H. Smith; 1888, John T. Mallahan; 1889, G. B. Brinkman; 1890, James H. Smith; 1891, Amos Liggett; 1892, G. B. Brinkman, J. T. Mallahan and William Agner (the two last named appointed); 1893, William Agner; 1894, J. W. Poast and D. G. Leffler (the latter appointed); 1895, Samuel Cartwright; 1896, D. G. Leffler; 1897, J. W. Poast; 1898, Samuel Cartwright; 1899, Ignatius Stechschulte; 1900, David Owens; 1901, J. H. Rower; 1902, Ignatius Stechschulte; 1903, D. E. Owens; 1904, J. H. Rower; 1905, B. A. Ruhe; 1906, Jacob Bright, in 1906 a law was passed changing the tenure of office of the county commissioners from one year to two; 1908, B. A. Ruhe, Jacob Bright and Jacob Best; 1910, Jacob Best, John R. Forney and George Herman; 1912, Frank Knecht, John Forney and Jacob Best; 1914, Henry W. Little, Frank Logan and William Schlagbaum.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

Since the organization of the county, in 1834, it has been included in several different congressional districts. It is rather difficult to designate all the men who have represented it, but the list of those representing this district since 1852 have been taken from the official records and are complete to 1915. The counties given are those in which the congressman lived when elected.

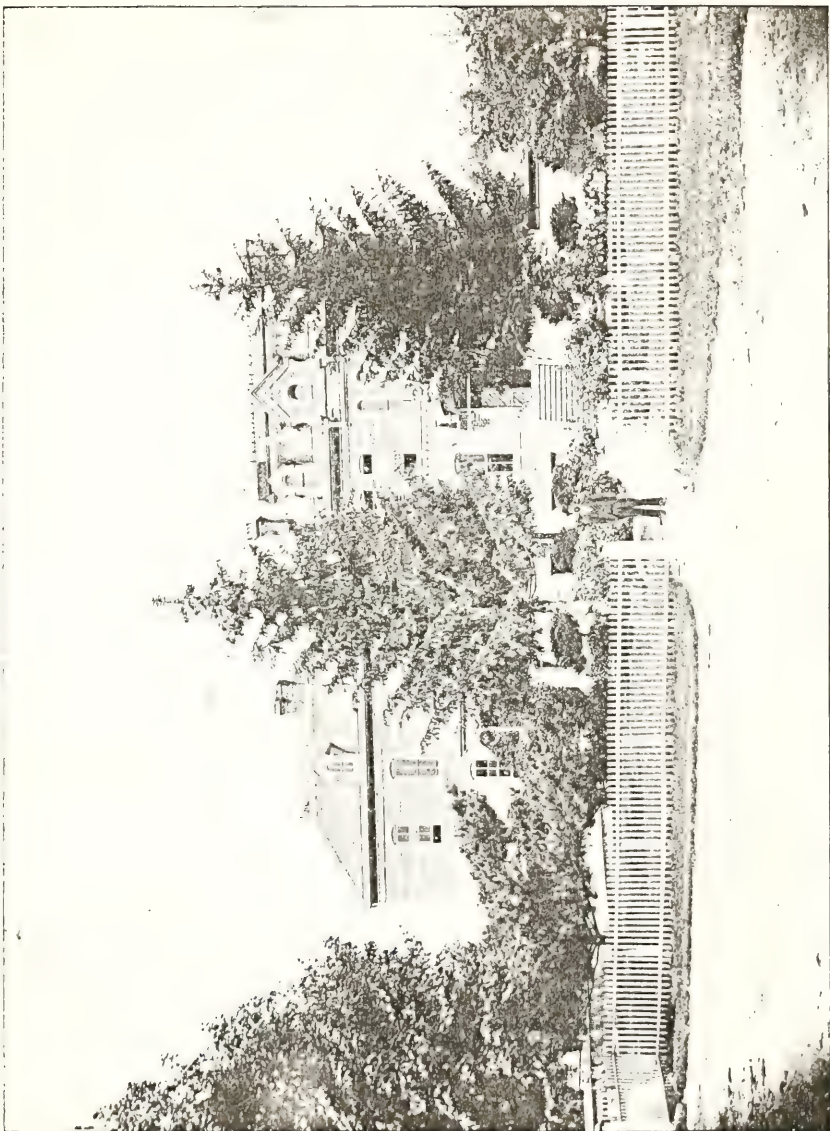
1852-54—A. P. Edgerton, Williams.	1890-92—Dennis D. Donovan, Henry.
1854-67—Richard Mott, Lucas.	
1867-68—J. M. Ashley, Lucas.	1892-94—Ferd. C. Layton, Auglaize.
1868-70—William Mungen, Hancock.	1894-96—Dennis D. Donovan, Henry.
1870-74—C. N. Lamison, Allen.	
1874-78—A. V. Rice, Putnam.	1896-98—F. B. Dewitt, Paulding.
1878-80—Benjamin LaFever, Shelby.	1898-02—David Meekison, Henry.
1880-85—William D. Hill, Defiance.	1902-04—John S. Snook, Paulding.
1885-86—George E. Seney, Seneca.	1904-06—W. W. Campbell, Henry.
1886-88—M. M. Boothman, Williams.	1906-14—T. T. Ansberry, Defiance.
1888-90—S. S. Yoder, Allen.	1914—N. E. Matthews, Putnam.

REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE LEGISLATURE.

Prior to the year 1847, Putnam county was in the same district with Allen, and, later, was with Henry county. Following are the list of state representatives and their years of service: Nathan S. Landes, 1847-48; Charles B. Edson, 1848-49; Sidney S. Sprague, 1849-50; William H. Snook, 1850-52; James G. Haley, 1852-54; James McKenzie, 1854-56; Henry J. Boehmer, 1856-68; W. J. Jackson, 1858-60; David I. Brown, 1860-62; Benjamin A. High, 1862-64; H. J. Boehmer, 1864-66; S. M. Heller, 1866-69; H. J. Boehmer, 1869-71; S. M. Heller, 1871-72; J. J. Moore, 1872-74; George W. Light, 1876-78; David I. Brown, 1878-82; I. H. Kahle, 1882-86; Amos Boehmer, 1886-90; Milton E. McClure, 1890-94; William F. Hoffman, 1894-98; N. B. Ross, 1898-1902; O. J. O'Donnell, 1902-06; Joseph Justice, 1906-10; John Cowan, 1910, still serving. After 1870 Putnam county elected its own representative. Before this was made a separate district, in 1870, the following were residents of this county: McKenzie, Brown and Boehmer.

STATE SENATORS.

From 1834 Putnam county has had representation in the state Legislature and during the eighty-one years which have elapsed since that time it has been included in several districts. It was first included in a district composed of Allen, Mercer, Darke, Shelby, Wood, Miami, Williams, Lucas, Van Wert, Paulding, Henry and Putnam counties. Gradually the number of counties composing the district was reduced and now consists of the five counties of Wood, Hancock, Henry, Fulton and Putnam. This district



PUTNAM COUNTY INFIRMARY.

has had two senators in the Legislature. The complete list of senators follows: James Johnson, 1833-34; John Hunt, 1835-36; Curtis Bates, 1837-38; John Hunt, 1839-40; Jacob Clark, 1841-42; John W. Walters, 1843-44; A. P. Edgerton, 1845-46; Sabirt Scott, 1847-48; James Cunningham, 1849-51; William Mungern, 1852; Samuel H. Steadman, 1854-56; William S. Lunt, 1856-58; Joseph N. Westcott, 1858-60; George Laskey, 1860-62; Charles M. Godfrey, 1862-64; J. C. Hall, 1864-66; A. M. Cory, 1866-72; H. P. Page and D. W. Howard, 1872-74; William H. Tressler and E. D. Potter, 1874-76; P. P. Brown and E. D. Potter, 1876-78; J. B. Steadman and David Joy, 1878-80; John A. Wilkins, 1880-82; J. H. Brigham and J. D. Norton, 1882-84; W. H. McLyman and O. B. Ramey, 1884-86; E. S. Dodd and H. C. Groshner, 1886-88; William L. Carlin and William Geyser, 1888-90; William W. Sutton and John Ryan, 1890-92; L. H. McConica and John C. Rorick, 1891-96; F. C. Harbaugh and John Vogt, 1896-98; William G. Leete and Adam Schaefer, 1898-1900; F. C. Harbaugh and George C. Dunham, 1900-02; Calvin P. Godfrey and George C. Dunham, 1902-04; Calvin P. Godfrey and L. H. Austin, 1904-06; R. A. Beatty and Amos Boehmer, 1906-08; Amos Boehmer, 1908-12; E. F. Weiser, 1912-1914; C. C. Cass, 1914 to the present time.

COUNTY INFIRMARY.

In 1865 a vote was taken to build a county infirmary, but the proposition was defeated. At the April election, 1866, another vote was taken and earned by eight hundred and six majority, only one hundred and fifty-one votes being cast against the measure.

In 1869, John Kern, Isaac Vail and Presley Corron were appointed and constituted the first board of directors. Those succeeding and years of service are as follows: 1869, Jessie Joseph, to fill vacancy; 1869, Samuel Kline; 1871, Isaac Vail; 1872, Jessie Joseph; 1872, Herman Recker, to fill vacancy; 1873, Herman Recker; 1874, Jacob S. Williams; 1875, Lewis N. Crawfis; 1876, Eli Stevie; 1877, Jacob S. Williams; 1878, Lewis N. Crawfis; 1879, Eli Stevie; 1880, Henry Recker; 1881, Joseph Faber; 1882, Kemp Samsal; 1883, Henry Recker; 1884, Joseph Faber; 1885, Kemp Samsal; 1886, Joseph Miller; 1887, J. R. Rimer; 1888, R. E. Gilbert; 1889, Joseph Miller; 1890, J. R. Rimer; 1891, R. E. Gilbert; 1892, W. F. Sherman; 1893, James Williams; 1894, J. W. Summers; 1895, W. F. Sherman; 1896, James Williams; 1897, J. W. Summers; 1898, A. H. Wingate, to fill vacancy; 1898,

A. H. Wingate; 1899, J. B. Uphaus; 1900, J. M. Shank; 1901, J. W. Plister; 1902, J. B. Uphaus; 1903, J. M. Shank; 1904, J. W. Plister; 1905, D. W. Light; 1906, James H. Hunt, appointed; 1906, James H. Hunt; 1908, James H. Hunt; 1908, D. W. Light; 1908, Henry J. Lammers; 1910, Henry S. Baxter; 1910, W. T. Elter; 1910, Henry J. Lammers. The board of infirmity directors ceased to exist in 1910, by an act of the Legislature passed in that year.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.

1869-71, Jacob S. Williams; 1871-75, Samuel McDowell; 1875-85, William R. Sherrard; 1885-92, C. A. McDowell; 1892-1900, James Ridge; 1900-02, John E. Nemire; 1902-15, W. P. Frantz.

After the board ceased to exist, the superintendent was appointed by the county commissioners. W. P. Frantz was the first man appointed by the commissioners and is still serving in that capacity.

TAX COMMISSIONERS.

The Legislature of 1912-14 enacted a law creating the office of deputy tax commissioner. Joseph Kersting was appointed by the commissioners to fill this office for Putnam county. He served for nearly two years, when he was superseded by R. B. Layton. The law has been decentralized and the duties of the deputy tax commissioner transferred to the county commissioners.

CHAPTER VI.

TOWNSHIP SETTLEMENT AND ORGANIZATION.

5

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

Blanchard township was organized in 1833, the year before Putnam county was organized, and at that time included the territory now in Van Buren, Riley, Blanchard and Richland townships. Richland township and the south tier of sections of Riley township were detached from Putnam county in 1848 and added to Allen county. When Blanchard township was organized, in 1833, it was a part of Williams county and the county seat was then located at Fort Defiance. The order creating the township is found in the commissioners' records of Williams county.

As far as known, there were only eight voters in the township at the time it began its career, although after the organization of the township the settlers began to come in rapidly. Otho Crawfis and his wife, Sarah Agner, had the honor of being the first settlers in this extensive township. They were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled in Putnam county on October 17, 1831. The year following, came Samuel Hall, Joseph Hickerson and H. M. Crawfis. In 1833 the population was increased by the families of Abraham Hardin, Hezekiah Bonham, William Prichett, Calvin and Alexander Morehead. The year 1834 saw a still larger number of families casting their fortunes with the pioneers of this township. In this year came William Patrick, Henry Pope, Joseph Wade, Samuel Hickerson, Joseph Bowen, George Shoemaker, Thomas McClure, Andrew McClure and Charles Gaysinger. The following year brought in the families of George Stewart, George Bacon, Azariah Smith and John Stewart.

Unfortunately, the early records of Blanchard township were burned many years ago and definite data on its early history is hard to obtain. It is known that the first election was held at the home of Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., and that the following officers were elected: Samuel Hall, Abraham Hardin and Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., trustees; Joseph Hickerson, clerk; Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., justice of the peace. Hickerson was selected by the voters to take the election returns to Defiance, and, while in the county seat, he

was sworn in as clerk. Upon his return he swore the other officers in and then the new county was ready for business.

An interesting story is told of Crawfis, who had been elected justice of the peace, and the story has the unusual advantage of being true. When he received his commission as justice of the peace for Blanchard township, Williams county, from Defiance, signed by Governor Lucas, he returned it, thinking that he lived in Putnam county. Within a short time the commission was returned to him with the official information that it was correct and that Putnam county had not yet been formally organized.

FIRST EVENTS.

Rev. Elam Day, a Methodist, preached the first sermon in the township, at the home of Samuel Hall, in the fall of 1832. Martin Hickerson, born in 1833, a son of Joseph Hickerson, was the first white child born in the township. The first death was that of a Miss Killpatrick, and it occurred the same year. The year 1833 also witnessed the first marriage, that of Samuel Myers and Margaret Hardin, the wedding taking place on Christmas day. The first road was the Findlay-Defiance road, and was surveyed through the township in the early part of the thirties.

Gilboa, the first town, was laid out in 1837 by Elisha Stout, who also built the first grist-mill in the township. The first election for township trustees was held in Gilboa, November 10, 1852. Wolves were plentiful in this part of the county, also deer, wild turkeys and other game could be seen. The first school in the township was taught by James Wade. The school house was built of logs, with hewed benches for seats and wide boards nailed against the wall for writing desks. It was heated by a fireplace made of mortar and sticks. Reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic were the only branches taught. Mr. Wade was followed, in order, by Eliza Enmons, Feline Hubbard, William Piernan, Mrs. Susan McClish, Mary Cartwright, James Agner, Lydia Shelby, Jane McDowell, Luella Agner, Laura Higginbotham and Nettie Diviney.

PRESENT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS.

Justice of the peace, A. V. Logan, of Gilboa; trustees, Hugh Harris and L. A. Pitney, of Gilboa, and John Crawfis, of Leipsic; clerk, W. H. Tobias, of Gilboa; treasurer, W. B. Gierhart, of Gilboa; constables, Henry Bowman and Richard McClure, of Gilboa.

GILBOA.

Gilboa, as was stated before, was laid out in 1837. Nelson McCallister built the first frame house in the village, but it was only a short time until the town began to grow. About the year 1830, a tavern was opened by Benjamin Stewart and Edward Mercer started a general store. Blacksmiths, mechanics and men of different trades began to settle here and it became a thriving village.

It is characteristic that Gilboa had the most rapid growth of any town in the county. From 1840 to the early fifties it was classed as the most thriving town in the county. At the time the early surveys were made, in 1852, for the Dayton & Michigan railroad, the citizens of Gilboa made an active and persistent contest with Findlay and Ottawa for the location of that road through their town; they failed in their efforts, and this was the first blow which the town suffered.

Among the earlier prominent and active citizens of this village were: Matthew Chambers, Sr., who built the brick hotel; Col. M. C. Ewing, who owned what was then the largest general store in the county; Dr. T. E. Paul, who settled here in the practice of medicine in 1845; William McClure, who also kept a tavern and later became county treasurer; Simon Maple, merchant, who later became county commissioner; Stansbury Sutton, who kept a general store until he took up the duties of prosecuting attorney and, later, county treasurer; Dr. Lyman W. Moe, who took up the practice of medicine in 1847.

In 1848 an epidemic of cholera almost decimated the village. Early settlers relate the horrible sufferings and deaths of the victims of this devastating disease. For a time it seemed as though the entire village would be wiped out, but its ravages were finally checked, although the effects of this dreaded disease were felt for some time.

The town was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in 1848 and has retained its corporate life ever since. The Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad was built through its limits in 1888, and gave an impetus to the growth of the town and its business, evidenced by the construction of new business buildings and residences.

Situated as it is, in the center of what was the earliest settled, and still among the best agricultural, portions of the county, surrounded by splendid farms, it has always kept a good trade, and even in the darkest years, after its failure to secure the Dayton & Michigan road, and, later, the epidemic

of cholera, it has still retained its progressive air. It has not progressed as rapidly in the past twenty years as formerly, but, owing to its early bearing, it has retained its place as an agricultural center.

Its business interests at present consist of an up-to-date bank, drain-tile plant, elevator and business houses which deal in all the necessities which the farmers require. It has a very modern high school building and is one of the nine educational centers of the county.

The present officers are: Mayor, P. C. Stateler; clerk, J. G. Knepper; treasurer, P. C. Davis; marshal, Frank Wood; councilmen, O. V. Todd, W. B. Gierhart, J. M. Reed, John Moffit, William Clymer and Banner Perkins. The population of Gilboa in 1915 was three hundred and forty-five.

M'CULLOUGHVILLE.

McCulloughville, located on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, was platted in 1888 by L. E. Holtz, civil engineer, for D. U. McCullough. This town was the site of Crawfis College and a postoffice was established here for the convenience of the college and the surrounding country. But this was later served by a mail route and the town has ceased to exist.

LIVINGSTON.

Livingston bears the distinction of being one of the few "paper towns" of the county. It was laid out, but never materialized.

Blanchard has within its boundaries two institutions which will be dealt with in another chapter, the county infirmary and Crawfis College.

GREENSBURG TOWNSHIP.

Greensburg township was created by the county commissioners within a year after the county was formally organized in 1834. Henry Wing, the first settler, named the township, although history does not record why he chose the name. Wing built a rude log cabin and located here with his family as early as 1825, but he had been in the township for several years prior to that date. Just when he came to the state of Ohio is not known, but he is found at the mouth of the Blanchard river in 1814 guarding supplies for the army. The War of 1812 was not yet closed and he seems to have taken some part in that struggle. In 1819 Wing was helping Capt. James

W. Riley to survey in this part of Ohio, and he continued with the surveyor's gang until 1822. This representative old pioneer was killed in 1844 by a falling tree, at the time of the opening of the Ottawa and Defiance road through Putnam county. In 1820 Henry Leaf located his family in section 10, on the Blanchard river, and in 1824 David Murphy, with his family, came down the Blanchard river from Fort Findlay. His was one of the first permanent white families in the county and his wife was the first person buried in the cemetery at Kalida.

In 1832 came Isaac Owens and John Myers, followed, in the succeeding year, by Levi Grove, Nutter Powell, Frederick Brower and John F. Kahle. The latter was the first foreigner in the county to take out naturalization papers. The year 1834 brought in Abraham Crow, Christian Bear, Nicholas Prymne and Alexander Berryhill. In 1835 Joshua Powell, William Bell, James Crow, William Phillips and John Neill were added to the slowly-growing population.

That the township was of slow growth is shown by the fact that only eight votes were cast at the first election in April, 1835. These eight voters selected the following officials: William Bell, Abraham Crow and Joshua Powell, trustees; Frederick Brower, clerk; Nutter Powell, treasurer; Frederick Brower, justice of the peace.

Organized with an area of thirty-six square miles, the township was decreased in 1848 by having the south tier of sections detached and added to Union township. In common with most of the townships of the county, the land in Greensburg was very swampy and it was many years after the township was organized before artificial drainage brought much of its area under cultivation. At the present time no township in the county can boast of better farms and the hundreds of contented and independent farmers of the township bespeak the prosperity which has come to this section of the county.

TOWNS.

Greensburg township has no equal in the county in the way of towns, there being four within her limits, namely: Avis, Cuba, Croswell and Dornington. If any of the four have ever been platted the officials failed to record the plats. Avis is located on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad. With a large stave mill to aid the growth of this village it bid fair to become a thriving town, but the mill being destroyed by fire and never replaced, the hopes for a larger village were shattered. Its business comprises one elevator, a general store and stock yards. Cuba is situated in

the northern part of the township, on the Blanchard river. Croswell is a railroad stop west of Axis on the same railroad. Dornington is located on the Ohio Electric and also the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

The following are the present officers of Greensburg township: Justice of the peace, A. F. Steiner; trustees, C. W. Beard, A. C. Körte, A. G. Verhoff; clerk, William Siebeneck; treasurer, H. C. Schroeder; constable, J. B. Fappe

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson township lies between Perry and Jennings townships, on the north and south, and Union and Monterey, on the east and west. It was originally laid out six miles square, although it was later decreased to twenty sections. In 1848 its area was increased to twenty-six sections by the addition of six sections taken from Perry township. The Auglaize river runs through the township from south to north and affords ample natural drainage. Within the past few years extensive systems of artificial drainage have been put into operation, with the result that now nearly all of the township has been brought under cultivation.

The records of the township covering the early years of its history were destroyed by fire many years ago and this renders it impossible to write the complete history of the township. The date of the first election and the first officers elected are unknown, but it is certain that the organization of the township dates from the first half of the thirties. The first officers of whom any record has been found are as follows: Thaddens Harris, justice of the peace, and William H. Harris, constable.

Elias Wallen, who settled in the township in 1822, seems to have been the first permanent settler. Rufus Carey and John Harter came with their families the following year, entered land and started to make homes in the wilderness. Owing to the extreme swampiness of the township, the settlers came in very slowly for several years. Thaddens Harris (1825) and Thomas Carder (1830) were all who came to the township before 1833. In the latter year, Phillip, Joseph and George Comer, Edward Ladd and John Heldrick located along the Auglaize river.

The following are the present officers of Jackson township: Justices

of the peace, H. Frank Rower and George W. Roose; trustees, Philip Sturm, John Kellers, G. Kummerle, clerk, Henry Biedenharn; treasurer, F. J. Recker; constable, Philip A. Rower.

Jackson township, although ranking among the best townships in the county, does not have any large towns within its limits. Muntana is situated on the Cloverleaf railroad, three miles south of Cloverdale. It was surveyed and platted in 1881 by George Skinner, surveyor for George H. Calkins. It bears the distinction of being the first town laid out in this township. Huntstown is another town of about the same strength as Muntana and situated just two miles north of it. Huntstown was platted and laid out in 1883 by Samuel Starkey and also lies on the Clover Leaf railroad. Douglas is the third town in the township and finishes the list. This town was never platted, at least no record can be found in the plat book, and at present is the site for the Odenweller Milling Company. These towns, although small, draw from the rich farming community in this county and in time may prove quite important commercial centers.

JENNINGS TOWNSHIP.

Jennings township also suffered in the donation of land to Allen county, just as Sugar Creek did. The south half of the township was cut off and two tiers of sections were added on the north from Jackson township, but three sections were cut off the west side and added to Monterey, thus the township now embraces twenty-eight sections.

Samuel Washburn was the first settler to purchase land and locate here. Washburn came in 1825 or 1826 and purchased two farms, which he cleared and sold to Isaiah Clawson and William Cochran in 1827 or 1828. About the year 1828, James Thatcher and William Scott cast their lot with the other early settlers in this township. A few others came in about this time and settled on the banks of the Auglaize river.

The first white child born in Jennings township was Thomas Washburn, on August 9, 1828. John and James Cochran were the next.

In 1832 or 1833 the township took on a temporary organization. William Cochran served as the first justice of the peace. It is difficult to get the true history of the township or the date of the permanent organization, as the early records were destroyed. In 1833 several families came over from Germany and took up their permanent residence here; among these were John Disher, Henry Wellman, C. Raabe, Henry Raabe and John

Raabe. In the following year H. J. Boehmer, V. D. Emse, George Calvage, Mrs. Calvage and several others settled here. The returns show that at the fall election in 1834 there were only seventeen votes cast in the township.

Colonel Jennings was the commandant at the fort, a small stockade built on the west bank of the Auglaize river, which served as a military post in the war of 1812. An incident concerning this post follows: Colonel Jennings sent out a detachment of troops under Capt. William D. Jones on a foraging expedition to the Indian towns of Upper and Lower Tawa on the Blanchard river. The detachment consisted of the Captain, Knowles Shaw, Aaron Howard, James Howard, Henry and Thomas Montgomery. They came in from the west and crossed the river near the Glandorf bridge. This was in August, 1813 or 1814. They found the towns deserted and, after feasting on roasting ears, chickens and fat hogs for a week, they burned the Indian towns and destroyed the growing crops before they returned to the fort. Colonel Jennings left his name as a monument to the township and also the town.

The Jennings township officials are as follows: Justices of the peace, J. H. Hunt and Cornelius Kortier; trustees, Barney Bruskotter, William Von Sassan and Charles Ricker; clerk, Ferd Heising; treasurer, Charles H. Raabe; constable, Felix Calvelage; ditch supervisor, James Brackman.

FT. JENNINGS.

Ft. Jennings is one of the oldest settlements in northern Ohio, where the white man made a permanent home in the wilderness. In 1812 Colonel Jennings erected a stockade, consisting of a line of posts set in the earth on a high and favorable bend of the Auglaize river, and it was from this stockade that the present village received its name. Settled at a time when there was no railroad, no canal, no stores, when by far the greater part of Ohio was one vast wilderness, the present generation can hardly realize the hardships and privations which these early settlers had to undergo.

The earliest industry was the manufacture of corn whiskey, but the construction of the canal drained the swamps and made this one of the richest corn-producing sections in northern Ohio.

The town of Ft. Jennings was platted in 1847 and incorporated in 1881. The Clover Leaf railroad was built through the town in 1876 and this gave the farmers a ready outlet for their products to the chief markets of the country.

In 1852 Christian Raabe founded the first general store and this was

followed soon after by a saw-mill, elevator, a tile mill, a good music store, two hotels and stores representing all the different lines of merchandise.

The streets of the town are sewerred and piked, and, with the industry and thrift of the farmers, she enjoys a proud place among the most progressive towns of the county.

The corporation officers of Ft. Jennings are as follows: Mayor, F. H. Geier; clerk, Ferd Heising; treasurer, Frank Geier; marshal, A. B. Michls; councilmen, William Boehmer, Basney Wiegung, Louis Brockman, Ferd Bertling, Frank Kohorst, Felix Calvelage.

The population of the town in 1910 was three hundred and thirty-six.

RUSHMORE.

Rushmore is situated on the Northern Ohio railroad and the southwestern part of Jennings township. It is surrounded by rich farming lands and bids fair to become a thriving little village. It has a church and school building for the convenience of its patrons.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Liberty township was organized in April, 1837. The first settler to locate here was Alexander Montooth, in 1835. Later in the same year, Charles Hofstetter, Nicholas and J. R. McConnell, Samuel James, James and John Irvin, John Krebs and O. C. Pomeroy took up their permanent residence in this township. H. S. Ramsey, Jacob Sigler, Henry Knopp, James Woodell and Robert Lowry came a short time later and aided in the early settlement and township organization.

At the first election, Nicholas McConnell was chosen justice of the peace, and J. R. McConnell was elected constable. The early records have been lost and a full list of the first township officers cannot be given.

The land in Liberty township was originally very swampy and this made it unhealthy. The first settlements, for this reason, were made on what was then called the Ridge, which was a slightly elevated strip of land. The growth of this township was very slow at first, as a great part of the land was unfit for cultivation. The swamps and ponds of the township were drained in 1860 and the land has been tilled, and in this way brought under cultivation. After the swamps were drained the sickness of this locality was greatly decreased and it became a very desirable habitation.

The first town was laid out in 1845 by the late Judge Palmer and was called Medary. Judge Palmer kept the first store in the town and erected a combination grist- and saw-mill, which was quite a curiosity to the early settlers. The building was a frame structure, with the grist-mill above and the saw-mill below. The site of this once thriving village is now covered with fields of waving corn.

The present officers of Liberty township are: Justices of the peace, John Farley, of Leipsic; Louis Lammers and Mack Shaffer, of West Leipsic; trustees, B. I. Stechschulte, J. M. Smith and Peter Schey, of West Leipsic; clerk, Joseph Lammers, of West Leipsic; treasurer, P. H. Schey, of West Leipsic; constables, Jefferson Ladd and Herb Dukes, of West Leipsic.

WEST LEIPSIC.

West Leipsic was laid out and platted in 1852. In the year 1850 John W. Peckenpough purchased the land where the village of West Leipsic now stands and had the first survey of twenty lots made, by Samuel Parker, county surveyor. A second and third survey was made in the following years, 1853-54, and completed the platting of all the lands now included in the town lying north of the Nickel Plate railroad.

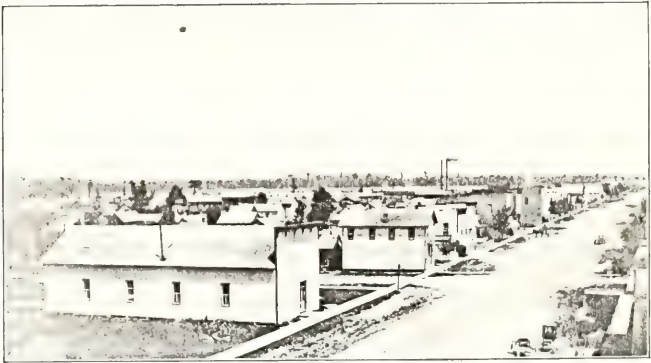
The first house built in the village was erected by John Shakely in 1850 and was known as the old Shakely house for a number of years. It was long used as a hotel and drug store.

From 1850 to 1855 the first settlers of the town came in, these including the following: J. J. Lowry, who kept the first store in the town and, later, was elected the first justice of the peace; John Dehnert was the first blacksmith; Joseph Faber, first wagon maker; George Haskell, first cooper, and Dr. Samuel Emery was the first physician. The first white child born in the town was Louisa M. Lowry, daughter of J. J. Lowry, born on September 29, 1852. Later, Miss Lowry became the wife of Doctor Emery, one of the leading physicians of the county.

The town was incorporated in 1882 with the following officials: R. Haskell, mayor; W. J. White, clerk; M. L. Pritchard, marshal; Thomas James, treasurer. The present officers are: Mayor, S. M. Tillbrook; clerk, Earl J. Shaffer; treasurer, M. L. Pritchard; marshal, Joseph E. Miller; councilmen, F. M. Bennett, J. I. Smith; W. J. Wooddell, Solomon Close; J. A. Montooth, Mack Shaffer.

The population in 1910 was two hundred and fifty-three.

Elm Center is another small hamlet in this township, being but a rail-



CONTINENTAL TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.



CONTINENTAL IN 1911.

road station on the Nickel Plate road. A similar village is Prentiss, a railroad station on the Dayton, Toledo & Ironton road.

MONROE TOWNSHIP.

Monroe is next to the youngest township in the county, being second only to Palmer. Cut off from Perry township in 1852, it has had a slow, but steady, growth since it started on its independent career. Like many other townships, its settlement was retarded on account of the general swampiness of its soil, and it was not until 1849 that its first permanent settler, Adam Perrin, made his appearance here. He seemed to have the whole township to himself for two years, or at least there is no record of any others until 1851, when John Grant risked his fortunes in the malaria-ridden district. In the same and following years appeared John and Eli Fickle, Hiram Madden, William Moore, D. D. Barnes, James Early, Samuel Birge, D. D. Murphy and Solomon McCullough.

At the first election, on April 5, 1852, there were only twelve votes cast and six of these electors were chosen to various offices, as follows: William Moore, John and Eli Fickle, trustees; James Early, clerk; John Grant, treasurer; Solomon McCullough, supervisor. At that time the township consisted of one road and one school district. The first teacher was George Krites, who taught in a small cabin on section 5.

The following are township officers at the present time: Justices of the peace, F. E. Treece, and E. L. Hartman; trustees, Frank Hall, J. W. Ernst and F. E. Treece, all of Continental; clerk, F. E. Moore, of Continental; treasurer, R. W. Kissell, of Continental; constables, M. G. Pease and Daniel Noe, of Continental; ditch supervisor, J. L. Carroll, of North Creek.

HARTSBURG.

Continental is the chief town in Monroe township, but its history and growth will be dealt with in another chapter. Lying due west of Continental three miles on the Nickel Plate railroad is a small hamlet which needs honorable mention. This aforesaid town is Hartsburg. The date of the platting of this village, if it was ever platted, cannot be ascertained. At present Hartsburg has one church and a school building. It is a stop on the Nickel Plate railroad.

WISTERMAN.

Wisterman is also a small hamlet in this township. It was platted in 1883 by E. W. Dimock, for W. S. Daly, E. R. Eastman and Jane James, the proprietors. This town failed to materialize to any great extent and at present is merely a stop on the Toledo, St. Louis & Western railroad. Rice was once a postoffice for the convenience of country people, but at present is only an interurban stop.

Continental, first called Marice City, was laid out and platted on March 23, 1888, by George Skinner for Gen. A. V. Rice. It was named in honor of the General's daughter, Mary Rice. At the time when the Nickel Plate railroad was constructed through Putnam county the land in the southeastern part of Monroe township was one vast body of unbroken wilderness and swamp. The Rice road improvements were constructed in 1865 through the present site of Marice City and made this land productive and, with the intersection of two railroads, a very desirable location for a town. In 1888 the Buckeye Stave Company erected their stave factory on their addition which they had laid out the same year (James Belford, surveyor). In the same year Dr. B. D. Sparling employed A. Overbeck to lay out and plat his first addition. In 1887 D. W. Seitz laid out and platted an addition for Gen. A. V. Rice, and the following year the same surveyor platted a second addition for Dr. B. D. Sparling. Mr. Seitz also platted a second addition for the Buckeye Stave Company, in 1890, and the same year sub-divided outlet No. 1 of Rice's addition, for the district assessor, H. B. Pierce. In 1895 Mr. Seitz also platted a sub-division for W. H. Miller.

The first store was opened up in Marice City by James Sullivan. This was followed, soon afterward, by a general store by the Buckeye Stave Company, but was later purchased by H. B. Rose and Alvin Poe. James Bell built his present store room and opened up a general store in 1887. Others followed soon afterward. The town was incorporated March 22, 1888, with the following officers: Polk Berhage, mayor; C. G. Ballman, clerk; James Bell, treasurer; C. S. Parish, marshal; W. B. Miller, John Hutchison, Hiram Dellinger, George Hahn, Silas Colvin and John Shamberger, councilmen. At the time when the town was incorporated several of the citizens tried to get the name changed to Continental, but this was not accomplished until April 17, 1899, at the February term of court.

Continental has been settled by business men who are ever striving for the betterment of the town. New bank buildings and business houses have

been constructed, which give the town its present prosperous and enterprising air. Its business interests consist of an elevator and milling company, the Continental and the Farmers bank, the Cloverleaf hotel, the Sanitary grocery, T. Hauck & Company's drug store, general stores, produce dealers, and merchants who cater to the wants of the town and country people.

The present population of the town is more than one thousand. The present officers are: Mayor, H. C. Parrett; clerk, S. N. Aller; treasurer, C. B. Shinabery; marshal, M. G. Pease; councilmen, W. H. Wright, W. C. Veach, Alonzo Spittler, John Minch, B. A. Manor and D. F. Owens; trustees of public affairs, L. B. Guy, William Saegers and L. P. Crawfis.

MONTEREY TOWNSHIP.

The year 1848 witnessed some very marked changes in the territorial limits of Putnam county. In this year Anglaize county was organized by cutting off the southern part of Allen, which joins Putnam on the south. In order to equalize matters, a strip was detached from the southern part of Putnam and added to Allen—seven tiers of sections being detached from Riley township, six tiers from Pleasant (known as Monroe township), three tiers from Sugar Creek and a similar amount from Jennings. This took one hundred and fourteen sections from Putnam county, but the kind-hearted Legislature compensated Putnam by adding eighteen sections taken from Van Wert county. This strip, six by three miles, lies immediately west of Jackson township and was organized as Monterey township in 1849. At the same time, five sections were detached from Jackson township and added to Monterey.

This township was settled largely by Germans and is one of the strongest Catholic township in the county. Henry Schroeder and Henry Upland, who came with their families in 1845, were the first permanent settlers. They were followed by Joseph Gruver (1846) and John Livingston. Jonas Dash, Conrad Henry and Bernard Esch (1847). Matthias Schroeder came in 1849.

The first election, on January 19, 1850, at the house of Joseph Gruver, resulted in the selection of the following officials: Bernard Esch, Henry Schroeder and Joseph Gruver, trustees; Jonas Dash, clerk. The scarcity of population may be understood when it is known that only eleven votes were cast at this first election. When the board of trustees met, on March 7, 1850, they proceeded to organize the township into two road and two school districts.

The Monterey township officials at present are: Justices of the peace, George Altenberger and J. H. Wannemacher; trustees, Frank W. Ruen, Martin Miller, and James Weber; clerk, Frank Kromer; treasurer, Max Winkelman; constable, Jacob P. Studer.

OTTOVILLE.

There is only one town in Monterey township, Ottoville. The platting of Ottoville has had some marked and varied changes, as shown by the records for those acts. In 1845, Elias Everett, county surveyor, platted for John Otto Bredeick a parcel of land in the northeast corner of section 30. This survey was abandoned, however, and the land was again surveyed by Charles Wannemacher in 1873.

The present site of Ottoville, by way of explanation, is platted in the corner of four sections, namely, sections 24, 25, 19 and 30. The numbering is due to the fact that the township was changed since the original survey.

In 1863 Samuel Parker, county surveyor, laid out that part of the original town plot lying in section 19 for Christ Martin. This survey has been changed somewhat since that time. In 1865 F. J. Lye, with the services of George Skinner, surveyor, laid out an addition west of the canal in section 30. In 1874 Peter Wannemacher laid out an addition to Ottoville in section 25 and in 1883 Aaron Overbeck, surveyor, at the instance of Richard Gilmour, bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, resurveyed all that part of the town originally laid out in section 19. The same survey platted an addition in section 19 for Max Winkleman during the year 1892. In 1894 Peter Wannemacher had another addition platted by D. W. Seitz, surveyor.

The town was incorporated in 1890, with Joseph Wannemacher, mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, clerk; John Branderhoff, marshal; Matt Schullen, treasurer; V. H. Otte, Peter Wannemacher, B. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, J. J. Miller and William Gasser, councilmen.

This village is the center of a very prosperous farming community; situated on all sides are the well-tilled farms of the sturdy, industrious Catholics who make up this settlement. This is the home of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception church, one of the most beautiful churches in this part of the state. The business interests of the town have always assisted in every material way for the growth of the town and unison among its early settlers was their strong characteristic.

Ottoville is accommodated with a good bank, an up-to-date flouring-mill, stores and merchants whose goods are the very best. The town also

has paved streets and an excellent school system. The population in 1910 was four hundred and seventy-seven, but has increased since that time.

The officers at present are: Mayor, J. C. Wannemacher; clerk, Frank Kromer; treasurer, Joseph P. Hurst; marshal, William Grenlich; councilmen, George Wannemacher, James Otte, Alph Bertling, W. T. Geier, John Van Oss, Alex Odenweller; trustees of public affairs, George Miehls, Ed Odenweller and J. J. Miller.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER IN OTTOVILLE.

In the fall of 1914, the town of Ottoville completed arrangements with the Electric Light and Power Company, of Delphos, Ohio, whereby the latter company agreed to furnish electric current for Ottoville at a definite rate. Delphos brought the current to the corporation line of Ottoville and then the latter wired it to its consumers in the town. The town has spent five thousand dollars in wiring, poles, meters, transformers, etc., and, although the first year has not yet passed, Ottoville already has one hundred and one consumers of light service and two consumers of power. The town operates twenty-five incandescent street lights, ranging in power from one hundred to two hundred and fifty kilowatts.

Ottoville guaranteed the Delphos company a minimum of fifty dollars a month for the first six months and since then has been on a rate of one hundred dollars a month. The Ottoville consumers have a minimum rate of fifty cents a month and a rate of ten cents a kilowatt. The profits of the town for the first six months enabled it to pay for its street lighting, and as time goes on the town hopes to make a still greater profit. The service has proven satisfactory in every respect and the example of Ottoville will doubtless soon be followed by other towns in the county. The local management of the utility is vested in the board of public affairs, consisting of J. J. Miller, George Miehls and Edward Odenweller. The clerk of the board is Frank Kramer, who acts as the manager and has general control of the installation of lights and the making of collections.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OF OTTOVILLE.

Ottoville is fortunately located in regard to a bountiful supply of water, being at the crossing of the Little Auglaize and the canal. With a twenty-horse-power gasoline pumping engine, water can be thrown in two streams

over any and all buildings in the town from either the river or the canal. In addition, the town has a hand-pump which requires thirty men to operate, but, since the installation of the gasoline engine, this is necessary only in extreme cases. The town owns fifteen hundred feet of two and a half inch hose, which is amply sufficient to carry water to any part of the town. It is interesting to note that in the whole history of the town there has never been more than one building burned down at one time. In fact, there have been no serious fires in the town for the past five years. There is a voluntary fire company of fifteen members, who receive twenty-five cents for attendance upon meetings, the number of meetings being limited to twenty-one a year. The members of the company are exempt from road tax, but receive no extra compensation for attendance at a fire. The present fire chief is Frank Kramer. Joseph P. Wurst is secretary and Joseph Vanoss is treasurer of the fire company.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF OTTOVILLE.

Automobiles—Alfred Huysman.

Bank—Ottoville Banking Company.

Barber—Theodore Kramer.

Blacksmiths—John Vanoss, John Zahn & Albert Schneider.

Carpenters—John Wurst, Henry Ruen, L. L. Red.

Cement Contractor—Frank Grubenhoff.

Dentist—W. L. Morgan.

Drayman—Martin Bendele.

Druggist—W. T. Renlinger.

Elevator—Benjamin Wannemacher & Sons.

Flour Manufacturer—E. L. Odenweller.

Furniture—John Lauer.

General Stores—J. J. Miller Company, F. F. Vincke.

Hardware—Charles Wannemacher's Sons, George Wannemacher & Company.

Hotel—G. E. Otte.

Ice Dealers—Berkling & King.

Jeweler—C. B. Wannemacher.

Justice of the Peace—George Altenburger.

Livery—Bendele & Miller.

Lumber and Building Supplies—Schulien & Roth.

Loans and Real Estate—George Altenburg.

Meat Market—Berkling & King.
 Millinery—Mrs. Frances Debe, Mrs. Matthew Kramer.
 Musical Instruments—C. B. Wannemacher, W. T. Remlinger.
 Physician—J. F. Ockuley.
 Poultry Dealer—Griffis Produce Company.
 Photographer—Harry Niedecken.
 Painters and Paper Hangers—Fred Bohn, Charles Sellet.
 Restaurants—Albert Lane, Rayman Brothers.
 Saloons—G. H. Otte, Nicholas Bedink.
 Stock Buyers—Conrad Fecker, Plesher & Brickner.
 Shoe Cobblers—W. T. Geier, Landing Rieger.
 Stone Crusher—Nicholas Lauer.
 Stone, Brick and Cement Workers—Peter Smith, J. F. Pittner.
 Telephone—Jacob Studer, manager.
 Tile Manufacturer—George Miller.
 Tinner—George Rieger.
 Veterinary—John Dietrich.

OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

Ottawa township was organized in March, 1835, with a limited number of people who had settled in the township during the previous two years. One of the first white settlers in the township was George Agner, who came here in the year 1832 and, the following year, settled on a farm east of Ottawa. William Galbreath settled on the farm adjoining Ottawa in the same year. Mr. Galbreath served in the War of 1812 and was present at the battle of Fort Meigs. William and Jonathan Y. Sackett, Henry Crawfis, Meridith Parish, Henry Ridenour, James Parish and Christian Huber are numbered with the pioneers of this township.

The first election for township officers was held at Michael Row's tavern, April 6, 1835. At this election the following officers were elected: George Agner, William Galbreath and Joseph Adgate, trustees; Michael Row, treasurer; William Sackett, clerk; William Bowman, constable; Michael Row and William Galbreath, supervisors; Meridith Parish and Samuel Clark, overseers of the poor; Michael Row and Samuel Runyan, fence viewers. The first justices of the peace were elected on May 5, 1835, John Cox and William Williams being chosen to fill this office.

These men who were elected at this early date to fill the township

offices were prominent in the affairs of the township and its most substantial citizens. It is noteworthy that some of the men filled more than one office, owing to the fact that the township was sparsely settled at this early date.

The first school held in the township was taught by Christian Huber. It was held in a log cabin located northeast of the present waterworks of Ottawa. Mr. Huber was of German birth, well educated and took a prominent part in the early political affairs of the county. His pupils were a mixed assemblage of youths, a number of Indian boys being enrolled under him. The Indian boys, however, were loth to attend school regularly and frequently "played hookey," to hunt and fish.

The first tavern was built of hewed logs and was kept by Michael Row. This tavern was well patronized by early travelers and early meetings of the citizens were held here to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the township and the early settlers. The first saw-mill was located on the Blanchard river a short distance west of the Glandorf bridge. It was built by James Adgate and was well patronized by the early settlers, there being few saw-mills in the county at this time and a plentiful supply of timber.

Since this was a famous settlement of the Indians, it need only be mentioned that the forests were full of wild game and the rivers afforded excellent fishing. Bears, deer, wolves, wild turkeys, and all kinds of small game were to be found here in abundance before the Indians gave it up as their hunting ground.

The town of Ottawa was laid out by Aughinbaugh and Barnett in June, 1834. It was the site of the old Indian town of Lower Tawa, named after the tribe of Indians who had a reserve of about twenty-eight sections of land in this township. In 1832 the Indians sold this tract of land to the United States, and left for that part of the Indian territory which at present is a part of Kansas. The original town plat consisted of only one hundred and twenty-eight lots. This subject will be taken up more fully in another chapter.

The present township officers are as follows: Justices of the peace, E. F. Wieser and John Cowan; trustees, John E. Reinman, Joseph Klausing and John Diemer; clerk, J. A. Missler; treasurer, Harry Nienberg; constable, Frank Recker.

OTTAWA.

The site where the village of Ottawa now stands was once a center of the Indian tribes of northeastern Ohio, but before the village proper was laid out, the Indians had bidden adieu to their once-famous abode. At the time the first settlers came to this part of the state to make permanent settlements, which was around 1825-30, there were but few Indians making their home in Tawa village. The Indians had ceded their reservation to the white man and were transferred to their new reservation in Kansas. However, only about two-thirds of them ever reached their new home, as they died of small-pox contracted on their journey. They were transferred to their new reservation under the management of a Mr. Hollister, of Perrysburg, who was the government's agent at that time.

No startling events are characterized by the creation of the new hamlet and but little more than ordinary interest can be aroused by this discussion, outside of the recital of a few historical facts. A few Indians remained here as late as 1830-39, but they were friendly to the white man, and incidents have even been related where the white man stayed with the Indian until suitable quarters could be provided for his family.

In the early part of the year 1833 a few families came to what had been until that time a reservation of the Ottawa Indians. In June of the following year Messrs. Aughenbaugh and Barnett laid out the town as a hamlet. They gave it the name of Ottawa in honor of the tribe of red men who had occupied a few "shacks" constituting the Tawa village, located on what is now commonly called the Green. John and David Cox, C. T. Pomeroy, William Galbreath, Michael Row, Mr. Williams and Samuel Runyan and their families were about the only settlers here at this time and constituted almost the entire citizenship of the hamlet for several years. But slowly the hamlet was gathering in the sturdy and honest settlers who a short time later were going to be the strong force behind this village to make it the center of the county; the Indian tepee was gradually giving way to the log cabin and civilization was beginning to claim this fertile land which was soon to serve a better purpose than being the hunting grounds of the Indian.

In 1834, when Ottawa was laid out, there were only five families in the place, those of John and David Cox, C. T. Pomeroy, William Galbreath and Michael Row. In addition, there were two men by the name of Williams and Runyan. At this late day, it is impossible to trace the growth of the

infant village, but it was not until the county seat was located here in 1866 that the village began to assume respectable proportions.

Michael Row built the first cabin on the site of Ottawa in May, 1834. This rude cabin served as the first tavern and became noted as a public house to all who had occasion to visit this section of the state. Many of the most eminent men of Ohio gathered around its festive board and drank the hard cider and still harder whiskey which the genial proprietor served to his guests. Row kept the tavern until his death and the old tavern, built more than four score years ago, is still standing. It was weather-boarded in 1877 and is now occupied by Falke & Kerner, monument dealers. The first frame house in the town was built by William Williams, a short time after Row erected his tavern.

POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice was established in 1837 and was called Buckeye. This was made necessary because there was another postoffice by the name of Ottawa in the state. Buckeye continued to be the name of the postoffice until 1862, when, through the efforts of Dr. C. M. Godfrey, the name was changed to Ottawa. Dr. C. M. Godfrey was the first postmaster and Capt. F. S. Godfrey was the village postmaster a few years later. Several years later, Captain Godfrey became treasurer of the county.

EARLY GROWTH.

John Cox has the honor of being the first merchant in Ottawa and opened a general store in 1835. Dr. C. P. Pomeroy, the first physician, began to practice here in 1835. Dr. C. M. Godfrey came here in 1837 and studied under Doctor Pomeroy. In 1854 Doctor Pomeroy laid out the first addition to the town. The prospect of the building of the Dayton & Michigan railroad caused an increase in population at this time, and the town began to experience its first boom. Additions were laid out in 1858, 1859 and in 1865, the additions the latter years embracing a large portion of the eastern part of the town.

On July 4, 1859, the railroad between Dayton and Toledo was completed and this event was celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion. This year may be taken as the beginning of a new era in the history of Ottawa and from this time the town began to plan to get the county seat moved from Kipla to this place. Seven years were to elapse before this much-desired change was made and these seven years saw the rising village take on the

airs of a real town. In February, 1861, it was incorporated and J. B. Fruehley became the first mayor.

During the Civil War everything was quiet, but with the moving of the county seat from Kalida, in the fall of 1866, the town began to grow. All of the lawyers and many of the best people of Kalida moved to the new county seat and between 1866 and 1870 the population of Ottawa more than doubled. With this influx of people, a new energy was developed, and a new era inaugurated. The frolicsome pig was soon to seek a wallow on some other than the principal business streets and the family geese to find a roosting place other than the sidewalk in front of the business houses. In 1866 a newspaper was launched in the town and many new business enterprises were established. Among these may be mentioned the following: Cobb, Pierce & Squires, dry goods; Cox, Bressler & Company, dry goods; Godfrey & Row, tavern; C. Wormsley, shoe shop; G. W. Brown, ashery; W. T. Soper, cabinet shop; David Cox, saw-mill; McCurdy & Allen, saw-mill; George B. Fuller, physician; T. J. Logan and J. B. Woodruff, lawyers; Col. J. L. H. Long, civil engineer; J. L. Olney, merchant. It may be mentioned in passing, that Mr. Olney is the only one of all of these early merchants who is now living. He is spending his declining days in the town where he began his career as a merchant three score years ago.

FIRST CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

The first church erected in Ottawa was that of the United Brethren and this denomination still uses it as a house of worship. The first school house was a rude log structure erected in 1836. The first school teacher was Priscilla Compton, who afterwards became the wife of Isaac McCracken, a pioneer citizen of Kalida. The only other school in the township before that time was taught by Christian Huber in his cabin a short distance east of Ottawa. As the years went by, better educational facilities were demanded and today Ottawa boasts of three excellent school buildings.

MORE RECENT GROWTH.

The growth of the town was steady from this time and, unlike some of the towns which spring up and flourish for a short time and then die out, this village was destined to be the leading metropolis in the county. Through the efforts of Doctor Pomeroy is largely due the construction of the Dayton & Michigan railroad through Ottawa. This was completed and trains run in

November, 1859. The Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western was completed and trains have run since 1894. The Detroit, Toledo & Ironton was constructed in 1896. At present Ottawa has three railroads and an electric line, which gives her all the transportation facilities required.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

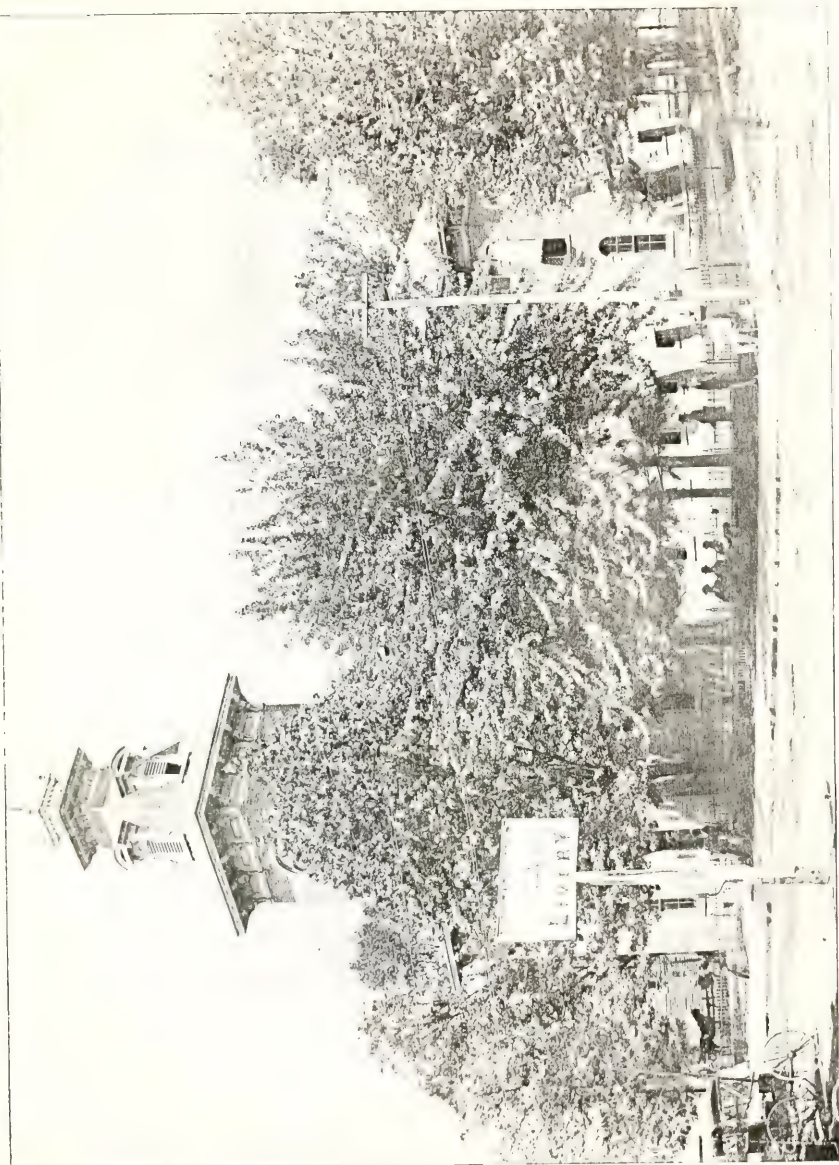
The first court house was completed and the first court held was in 1868. However, court was held here the year previous. This was a brick structure and did credit to the times. The present court house is a beautiful and imposing edifice and no county seat in Ohio of the same size can boast of such a modern building. It is a three-story structure with all of the modern conveniences, including elevator, assembly room for public meetings, rest rooms and fully equipped rooms for all of the different county officials.

The first county jail was constructed in 1869 and was replaced by the present structure in 1900. The present building is located across the street from the court house and is very modern and well equipped for the needs of the lawless unfortunates.

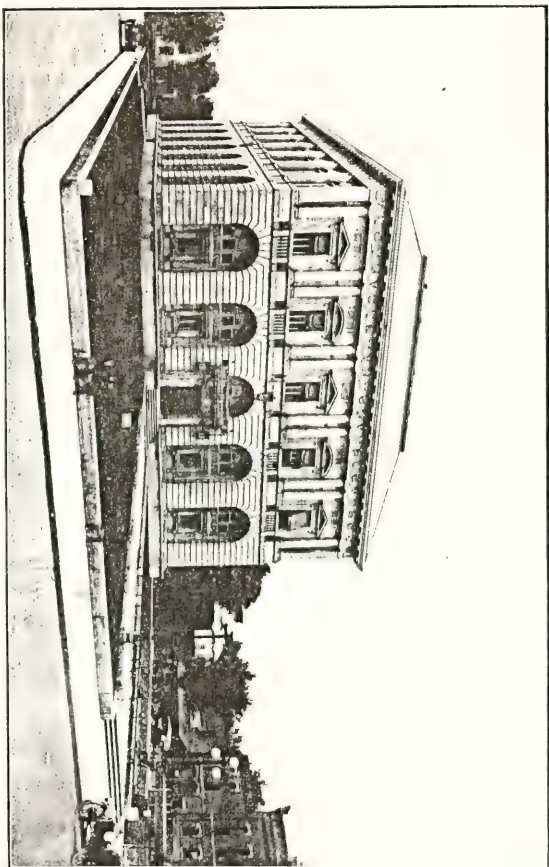
WATER WORKS.

The Ottawa water works was completed in the year 1904. In 1892 the Legislature adopted the municipal code and created the board of public affairs. The first board appointed in Ottawa consisted of the following enterprising citizens: George D. Hamden, Dr. H. Huber, and George D. Kinder, the latter being chosen as the president of the board. Doctor Huber served for one year, when he resigned, and W. H. Harber was appointed to fill the vacancy. Subsequently Messrs. Kinder, Hamden and Rauh were elected for two years and have filled the office up to the present time, being re-elected every two years. Through the efforts of these three men the present water works system was installed. The water works is located in the city park, which is on the east side of the town. This park is a very pretty amusement place for a village of this size. Numerous cages of animals and birds have been placed here and it is fitted up for the amusement of the children.

Ottawa also has an excellent volunteer fire department and is the equal of any volunteer company in this section of the state. They have given good service on many occasions and have even made runs to different towns in the county which were in distress. On one occasion two of the firemen



FIRST COURT HOUSE AT OTTAWA.



PUTNAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

lost their lives while fighting fire. The equipment at the present is of the best and recently a gasoline fire truck was purchased.

The opera house furnishes an excellent place for amusements and social gatherings. The armory is another imposing structure which the citizens of this village may well be proud of.

The industries consist of a tile factory, elevator and milling company, creamery, lumber yards, two cigar factories and numerous smaller industries.

The people of the town are accommodated with four churches, the Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic, United Brethren and Presbyterian. These churches are well attended and speak well for the religious interests of the community.

The roads leading into Ottawa are macadamized and graveled and there are four iron bridges within the limits of Ottawa spanning the Blanchard river.

Ottawa's business is conducted through the Bank of Ottawa Company and the First National Bank. The following is a directory of the business houses at the present time:

Hotel—Dumont.

Dry Goods—T. C. Hipkins & Son, J. W. Brown, G. W. Meffley.

Hardware—E. L. Frey, O. C. Wilson and Son.

Clothing—Wise Clothing Company, Rampe Store Company, D. A. Frick.

Druggists—A. R. Robenalt & Son, Gerding & Company, and Blosser.

Pianos—Schute & Butler.

Furniture and Undertaking—Heringhaus & Pope, J. H. Gallagher.

Grocery—C. I. Moore, G. D. Hamden, P. D. Ward and R. A. Alt.

Shoes—John O. Cartwright.

Meat Market—Grise & Grise, Smith & Son, Adam H. Zeherer.

Five and Ten-cent Stores—S. Rappaport, Stroup.

Jewelers—F. T. Sprague and A. F. Beckman.

Roofing—John Hornung and Doecker & Westrick.

Harness—William Klausing and Charles Martin.

Farm Implements—G. H. Knettle.

Tailors—Joseph Jessing, A. J. Banning and T. F. McElroy.

Marble Works—Falke Bros. & Kerner.

Baker—Home Bakery Company.

Lumber Company—Robert Hixon.

Fraternities—Free and Accepted Masons (lodge, chapter and council), Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, Reindeers, Royal Arcanum,

Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of Ohio, National Union, Grand Army of the Republic.

THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY.

The largest factory in Putnam county is the sugar beet factory in Ottawa, a plant which cost more than a quarter of a million dollars and was operated for only two seasons. The inception of the factory dates back to 1911, when some men came to the county for the purpose of seeking a location for such a factory. So enthusiastic were they over the possibilities of making a sugar beet factory a profitable undertaking in the county that they were soon able to convince the people of Ottawa and the county that they should assist in making the establishment of a factory an assured thing.

Before the close of 1911 the citizens of Ottawa had entered into an agreement with the Ottawa Sugar Beet Company, in which they agreed to raise for the company eight thousand dollars and guarantee the planting of one thousand acres of beets the first year. The money was expended for land south of the Blanchard river, located in the Cover-Matthews-Rice addition. Thirty-four acres were secured and turned over to the company. In turn, the company agreed to erect and equip a plant and operate it for a period of five years. In case they did not live up to their part of the agreement the property was to revert to the citizens who had voluntarily subscribed the eight thousand dollars. Although the plant was operated only two years, the company did not turn the plant over, and just who really does own it at the present time is for the court to decide. In the spring of 1915 the plant was advertised for sale to cover delinquent taxes, but no one had the courage to assume the responsibility of taking it on their hands.

A mammoth building was erected in 1911-12 and was ready to handle the 1912 crop of beets. General Manager Martine was placed in charge of the plant and during the first season manufactured a million and a half pounds of sugar. This amount was increased by a third the second year and there did not appear any good reason why the plant was not a success in every way. However, strange things will happen.

At the close of the second season the plant was closed down and the huge building has remained deserted ever since. When it will be opened for business again no one seems to know, nor is there any certainty that it will ever be operated again. In addition to the manufacture of sugar, a man from Ironton, Ohio, put in a hundred thousand-dollar equipment for taking care of the by products. He made a kind of stock food, which found a

ready sale in the market and he was apparently making a success of his business at the time the factory closed. He had to be content with getting out of the business with the experience he gained, since his investment was a complete loss on his hands when the factory ceased operation.

During the two years the factory was in operation, Ottawa enjoyed a reign of prosperity which it had never before known. Many men found employment in the factory and many more secured work in raising the beets. Scores of Belgians came into the county and found ready employment with farmers. Most of them were unmarried men and traveled from farm to farm in wagons which they had fitted up in such a manner that they could live in them. They contracted with many farmers to take entire charge of their crop, from planting to harvesting, for which they received eighteen dollars an acre. One man could not tend much more than five acres alone and hence it was necessary to secure additional help if the farmer was going to raise anything else except tomatoes. The profit to the farmer varied from fifty to a hundred dollars an acre and probably averaged seventy-five dollars an acre.

Only an unrefined brown sugar was manufactured and, strange to say, the company refused to sell a pound of the sugar to any one in the county. Most of the sugar was shipped to Cincinnati and distributed from that city. The amount of sugar derived from a ton of beets varied considerably, ranging from one hundred to two hundred pounds. Each load of beets was tested for its sugar value and the farmer was paid accordingly to the amount of sugar which it was supposed his beets would yield. The farmer received on an average of five dollars a ton for his beets.

At the same time that the local factory was in operation many farmers shipped their beets out of the county. Most of them went to factories in Toledo and Findlay, the Toledo company having a buying station at Continental. Many reasons have been advanced in explanation of the shutting down of the factory, but no two persons can agree as to what the real facts in the case are. Some have said that the machinery which was installed was second-hand and was not capable of making the company a reasonable profit. Others say that the tariff was to blame and that the Democratic party must shoulder the responsibility; still others maintain that the tariff has nothing to do with the matter—that the men in it simply fleeced the people out of their money and left for greener pastures. The facts as they stand now are very evident: the factory still stands and is ready to operate at any time, but no one knows whose factory it is. Within the next year the courts will establish the status of the factory and the people of Ottawa and Putnam county

are of the belief that it will soon be in operation. Time solves all mysteries—even beet sugar industries.

POSTMASTERS OF OTTAWA.

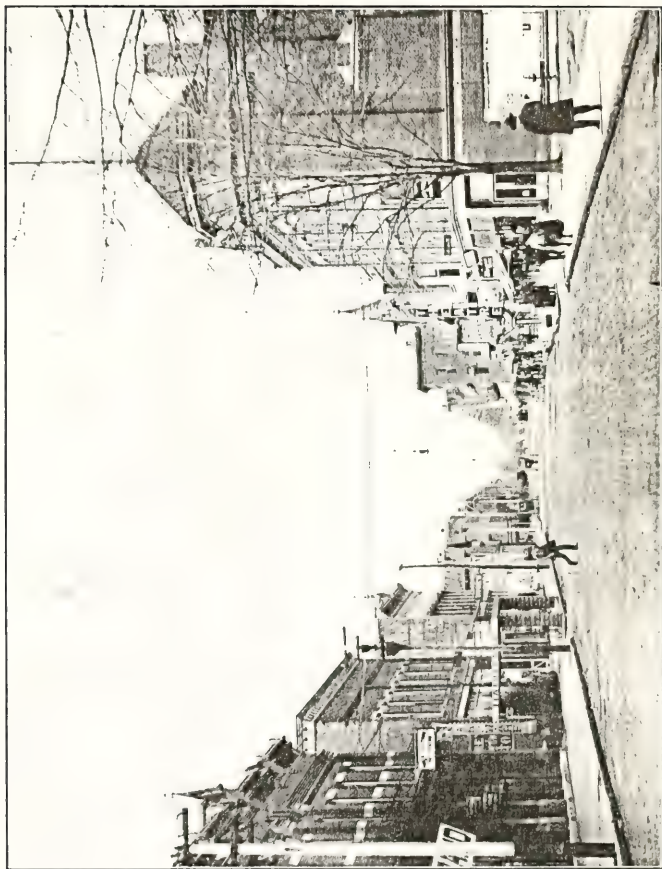
Due to the fact that there was another Ottawa in Ohio in 1837, the postoffice at Ottawa, Putnam county, was called Buckeye from the establishment of the office in 1837 to 1862. In the latter year C. M. Godfrey succeeded in having the postoffice department at Washington, change it to Ottawa. C. M. Godfrey was appointed postmaster upon its establishment in 1837, but it has not been possible to get the other postmasters up to 1860. The complete list since 1860 is as follows: August Schierloh, James R. Clark, James Godwin, Hiram Raff, T. D. Campbell, J. J. Zeller, J. C. Light, H. L. McDowell, Allan Graham, and G. F. Zeller, the present incumbent.

FINANCES OF THE TOWN OF OTTAWA.

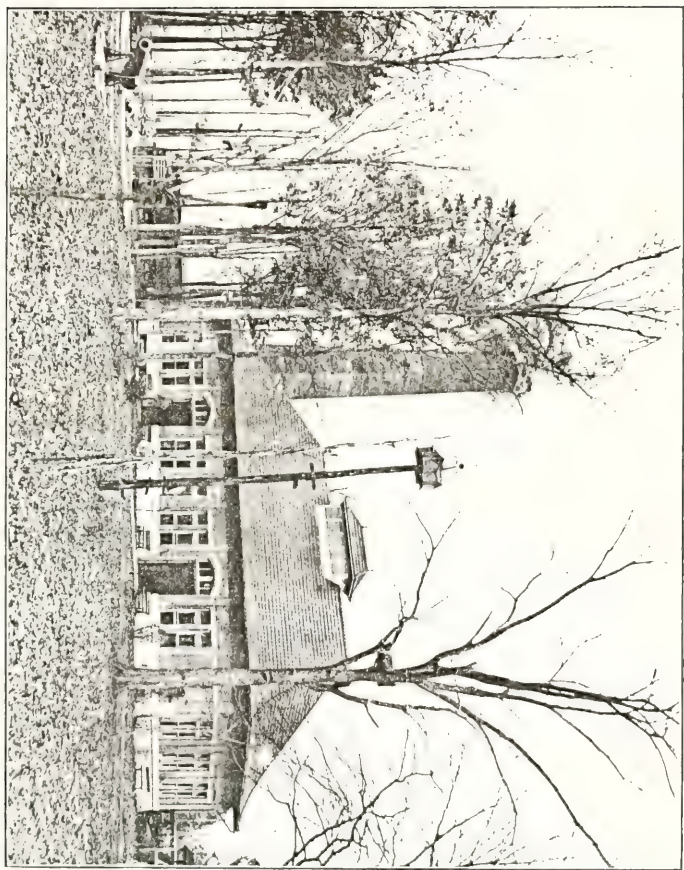
The last annual report of the financial conditions of the town of Ottawa gives a detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures for the year 1914. The present officers of the town are as follows: T. F. McElroy, mayor; H. C. Gerding, clerk; J. W. Paden, treasurer; Edward Klausling, marshal; W. J. Graham, A. T. Fox, George Schulien, Herman McDougale, C. J. Kerner and J. H. Westrick, councilmen; G. D. Hamden, H. F. Rath and G. D. Kinder, board of public affairs. Joseph Kersting is clerk of the board of public affairs.

The money derived from fees and taxes is divided into six funds, as follows: general, safety, service, health, sinking and water. The receipts and expenditures of these various funds for the year ending December 31, 1914, are as follows:

Fund.	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Balance.
General -----	\$ 3,206.81	\$ 2,644.80	\$ 562.01
Safety -----	5,313.47	5,001.54	311.93
Services -----	6,316.33	5,932.00	384.33
Health -----	164.60	134.40	30.20
Sinking - -----	29,773.02	28,855.58	917.44
Water - -----	7,431.66	6,946.19	488.47
Totals -----	\$43,793.68	\$45,664.51	\$2,694.38



MAIN STREET, OTTAWA, LOOKING WEST FROM COURT HOUSE.



WATER WORKS AND PARK AT OTTAWA.

The town treasury had a balance of \$4,565.21 left over from the previous year, which accounts for the balance at the end of 1914. The bonded indebtedness of the town is divided among five items, to-wit:

Water works -----	\$50,000.00
Main street -----	7,500.00
Defiance street -----	795.00
East Main street -----	300.00
Armory site -----	3,000.00
R. R. avenue, Oak and Locust streets-----	10,898.63
<hr/>	
Total -----	\$72,553.63

The salaries of the main town officials are nominal, the mayor drawing only two hundred dollars a year. The salaries of the other town officers are as follows: Clerk, \$260; treasurer, \$250; solicitor, \$150; councilmen, \$42; marshal, \$480; night watch, \$480.

GLANDORF.

Rev. Mr. Horstmann, a native of Prussia, left the Fatherland in August, 1833, and arrived in New York in November following. Father Horstmann and his companion, John F. Kahle, left Detroit on November 27 in search of a suitable location on which to found his proposed colony. Bordering on the banks of the Blanchard river they found excellent timberland and, in January, 1834, they determined on purchasing a tract of it from the government. The names of the pioneers who came in February are: A. Hurg, Christian Strop, J. Wischmann, Ferdinand Bredeck, Matthias Bockrath and William Gulcher.

The colonists erected log cabins and these were provided with only the barest necessities of life. In laying out the village of Glandorf, the pioneers held very closely to the custom of the Province of Osnabruck, Germany, whence its founders came. There is but one street deserving the name and that extends over a mile north and south. This street is lined on either side with the quaint, durable and homelike houses of the villagers with their spacious and well-kept yards, the street being interspersed here and there with a few stores and shops. The early industries of Glandorf were shoemaking, woolen-mill, wooden-shoe manufactory and saw-mills, and it is well to note that in 1837 Father Horstmann built the first grist-mill in the village of Glandorf for the accommodation of the early settlers.

The early records fail to record the date of the first platting, but, on January 20, 1877, by an order of the court, it was re-surveyed and the lots were numbered. The village had no municipal form of government until August 7, 1891, when it was incorporated as a town, with William Altkruse, mayor; F. W. Hoffman, clerk; Joseph Nienberg, treasurer; Fred Franke, marshal; John Smith, street commissioner; W. F. Hoffman, Henry Kemper, Henry Merseman, Dr. A. Borman, B. F. Wortkoetter and Joseph Winkleman, councilmen.

Glandorf for many years was a great boot and shoe center of the county and boasts of the only woolen-mills in the county. The flouring-mill at Glandorf bears the distinction of being the first in the state using the system of rollers known as the Alffree system, which were put in by Mr. Nartker. This little village also boasts of a large bending works, operated by F. N. Ellis, and a planing-mill, but on the night of August 2, 1901, fire was discovered in the planing-mill and before assistance could be called it had made such headway that it was impossible to extinguish. The loss was twenty-five thousand dollars and this was a very severe shock to the town. At present the Americanized German village is well represented in all the different lines of business and does an extensive trade with the surrounding farmers. The population in 1910 was five hundred and fifty-eight.

The present officers are: Mayor, P. A. Missler; clerk, J. A. Missler; treasurer, B. A. Nienberg; marshal, Ferd Gulker; councilmen, G. H. Merseman, Moritz Harman, J. W. Halker, Fred Franke, Aug Nartker and Charles Mallifske.

BRICKNER.

New Cleveland is a small hamlet lying three miles north of Ottawa. Its postoffice is called Brickner. One store and a few houses make up the settlement.

PALMER TOWNSHIP.

Palmer township was the last one organized in the county and dates its independent existence from 1854, previous to which time it had been known as North Greensburg. It was named in honor of Judge Palmer, an eminent jurist who had served on the bench in Putnam county with universal satisfaction to the people of the county. The late organization of this township was due to the lack of a sufficient population to justify its creation.

By the fall of 1854 the citizens resident within the proposed township satisfied the commissioners that the creation of a new township was necessary, and the commissioners accordingly ordered an election for January 1, 1855. The thirteen voters selected the following corps of officials: John Frazee, John Kerns and John S. Welch, trustees; John Hamilton, treasurer; David Caldwell, clerk; John Kerns, justice of the peace; David Caldwell, constable. This combination of Johns and Davids started the township on its independent career, and although sixty years have come and gone since they were elected, yet many men are still living in the township who can recall these excellent citizens.

Palmer township is situated in what was then known as the "Black Swamp," a descriptive term which fitly explains the reason why the township was so slow in being settled. The beavers threw hundreds of trees across the sluggish North and South Powell creeks and the water, thus dammed up, spread over a goodly portion of the area of the township. Old residents can still recall how these unique dams had to be torn out before the land could be drained. Many years elapsed before the streams were cleared of the obstructions in such a way that artificial drainage could be secured to any advantage. At the present time nearly all of the township has been brought under cultivation and no better land is to be found in the county than that which was until a few years ago covered with from one to two feet of water.

The present Palmer township officers are as follows: Justices of the peace, George A. Alt and John S. Schafer; trustees, Martin Gebhardt, Laurence Seimet and James Troyer; clerk, William R. Stuber; treasurer, C. C. Schafer; constables, John Seimet and William LaFountain.

MILLER CITY.

The same year that marked the beginning of the once famous little town of Hector saw the birth of another village in Palmer township. Miller City, although taking a slow growth at first, was destined to a longer life than her sister city. It was laid out and platted by Aaron Overbeck on August 22, 1882, and dedicated under the name of St. Nicholas, by Nicholas Noriot and Nicholas Miller, the proprietors of the two parcels of land upon which the village plat was located.

The country around this village became a veritable garden spot after it had become thoroughly drained of its swamps and was known as the South Prairie. Large and small garden and farm produce was raised in

abundance and Miller City became the shipping point for these enormous crops, as well as much of the timber and lumber products manufactured in its vicinity. Stores were established under this impetus and the town grew with such rapidity that Mr. Miller deemed it necessary to lay out new additions, which he did in 1884 and 1887.

Upon petition to the county commissioners, the town was duly incorporated on November 26, 1890, under the name of Miller City, being so named for the original proprietor, Nicholas Miller, to whose energy and business tact the growth and progress of the village was largely due. This city, situated as it is on the Nickel Plate railroad, which affords it a ready outlet to eastern markets, is certain to make advances. The Miller City Tile Company is one of the greatest industries at the present time and, with her other business establishments, the town has assurance of the country trade.

The present officers of the town are as follow: Mayor, J. M. Dobneyer; clerk, F. E. Kern; treasurer, William Hohenbrink; marshal, Jacob Warnamont; councilmen, C. M. Huber, Frank Gasken, John Noon, Joe Snaiger, L. P. Maxwell, Oswald Brown.

The population in 1910 was three hundred.

KIEFERVILLE.

Kiefoerville was laid out and platted by D. A. Kiefer, the surveying and platting being the work of ex-County Surveyor Lewis E. Holtz, in 1870. This town was laid out on the old Continental railroad grade, the Nickel Plate railroad having taken over this proposed line a few years later and used it for their main line, and the Defiance pike, which crosses the Nickel Plate at this point. The town has experienced no booms and has struggled along with its existence. A hotel, church and general stores accommodate the inhabitants of this little village. Kiefoerville bears the distinction of being the first town laid out in Palmer township.

NORTH CREEK.

North Creek was the second town laid out in Palmer township. It was platted in 1879, and lies on the Clover Leaf railroad. The first lots were surveyed for William Schafer, who was a man of energy, and the prosperity and growth of North Creek were due to his efforts.

HECTOR.

Hector was platted and laid out on December 26, 1882. This town was the home of the Hector Stave Company, which was one of the largest and leading industries of this county until the timber was exhausted. The town was platted by E. W. Dimmock, county surveyor, and named in honor of Hector Havemeyer, one of the members of the company.

The growth of this little village was very rapid and at the height of its prosperity it was the center of the mercantile trade of that locality. The Hector store, through its standard methods and square dealings, was known throughout Putnam county. The proprietors of Hector were liberal in contributing their efforts and means toward the development of the town. The Hector Creamery and Cheese Company was organized in 1891 and the first creamery in the county was thus started. Churches, school building and a Knights of Pythias lodge hall were built through the contributions of this company. The history and growth of the company will be taken up in another chapter. With the exhaustion of the timber, the prosperity of the town began to wane and at the present time this once flourishing town and commercial center is nothing more than a railroad stop.

PERRY TOWNSHIP.

Perry was the first township organized in what is now Putnam county and dates from 1828. It was named in honor of Commodore Perry and at first included all of the territory now in Putnam county. It has been decreased from time to time, as new townships were organized, until it now has thirty-six square miles. It was given its present limits in 1848, when the south tier of sections was attached to Jackson township. The early history of the township is shrouded in more or less obscurity, due to the fact that the first records have been lost. The first settlers appear to have located near the junction of the Auglaize and Blanchard rivers. The best evidence points to Robert Wallen, who settled there in 1819, as the first actual settler in the township. He was followed in 1821 by David Murphy, Thomas McClish, Silas McClish and Sebastian Shroufe, with their respective families. The last-named pioneer is credited with planting the first nursery in the county and it was from this that a large number of the orchards of the county received their start. Other settlers came in during each succeeding year until

by 1828, there were enough to justify the organization of a separate township. In 1823 came Andrew Craig, Daniel Sullivan, William Bowen and a man by the name of Cavanaw. William Harrell located in the township in 1825, and in the following year John Ridenour and Dimmit Mackrill cast their fortunes with the new settlement in the township. The year 1827 saw William Bishop, Joseph Frazee, Joel Wilcox, Abel Crossley and a few others locating in the new settlement.

Following the formal organization of the township in 1828, an election was ordered held at the house of Sebastian Shroufe. At that time the following officers were elected: William Harrell, Abel Crossley and John Ridenour, trustees; Silas McClish, clerk; Joel Wilcox, treasurer; William Bishop, supervisor; Sebastian Shroufe, justice of the peace; Dimmit Mackrill, constable.

This Dimmit Mackrill was a man of energy and was deeply interested in the welfare of his township and county. A story is told of him which goes to show how zealous he was in the discharge of his duties. In 1832 he was road supervisor for his own township, but for some reason he thought his district took in the whole county. Accordingly, he notified all the men living along the Blanchard river, from the mouth of the river to the Hancock county line, to appear on a certain day for work on the south side of the Auglaize river. As might be expected, some of the settlers appeared for work on the appointed day, while others did not. Whether Mackrill was really in ignorance of the size of his district, history does not record, but it is safe to say that the stout old pioneers who worked on that day did valiant service in improving the road in question.

The first election in Perry township was held at the house of Sebastian Shroufe in 1828, and at that time the following officers were elected: William Harrell, Abel Crossley and John Ridenour, trustees; Silas McClish, clerk; Joel Wilcox, treasurer; William Bishop, supervisor; Sebastian Shroufe, justice of the peace; Dimmit Mackrill, constable. The present officers of the township are as follows: Justices of the peace, W. H. Fensler and Steven Wannamacher; trustees, John Carder, W. T. Etter and Gilbert McClish; treasurer, P. A. Scharf; constables, C. C. Etter and Ed Lehmkuhl; ditch supervisor, D. H. Nutt.

Although Perry is the oldest township in the county, it has been improved slower than any other, due to the fact that so much of the land was swampy in character. Within the past quarter of a century the township has made rapid strides and now ranks favorably with other townships

in the county along all lines. The population of the township in 1910 was one thousand five hundred and eighty-one.

FRANCONIA.

Franconia was the first town laid out in the township. It was laid out by Amos Kendall in 1837 and the first store was kept by Parlee Carlin. A double log cabin, which was featured by Howe as a "Home in the Wilderness," was erected by Sebastian Shroufe, and P. B. Holden later kept a tavern in the same building. While Franconia was a flourishing little center of trade for a number of years, it has long since disappeared and nothing now remains of what was once hoped would be a substantial town. Other towns in this township include Cloverdale (Drucilla), Dupont, Cascade and Huntstown.

DUPONT.

Dupont was for many years the largest town in the township. It was platted in 1877 and named in honor of Rear Admiral S. F. Dupont, of the United States navy, a postoffice of that name having been established in the year 1864. The mail route at that time ran from Ottawa to Charloe, twenty-six miles, and was traveled once a week.

In 1877 the Toledo, Delphos & Indianapolis narrow gauge railroad was built through the village; in 1888 the entire route was changed to a standard gauge and known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroad.

Dupont was incorporated in 1888 and E. W. Dimock was chosen to serve as the first mayor. This village began to grow and its prosperity seemed assured, but occasionally the healthiest child fails to become the strongest man. In the height of the town's prosperity there were two stave-mills which did an extensive business, two hotels, tile-mill, saw-mills, an axe-handle factory, and five general merchandise stores. The population of the town was about seven hundred. Then came the decline.

The first blow which Dupont had to endure was the failure of the timber and, in consequence, the removal of the stave factories, her chief industry. The second blow came with the building of the Nickel Plate railroad across the Clover Leaf at Continental, and the final step was the construction of the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western through Cloverdale, just two and one-half miles south of the village.

The present population is about three hundred. A tile factory, a general store, grocery and hardware store represent her business interests. The

school facilities are very good. The present officials are: Clerk, T. R. Hart; treasurer, W. T. Etter; marshal, Allen Williams; councilmen, C. C. Etter, George Etter, Thomas McClish, Sol. Wollam, R. C. Brandt and William Spencer.

CASCADE.

Cascade lies on the west bank of the Auglaize river and on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. It was platted in 1892 by E. W. Dimmick, for Charles Andrews. Myers' mill, the first in the county, was located here, and its owner, Samuel Myers, was one of the most prominent citizens of the village for many years. In fact, the place was locally known as Myers' Mill for many years and even to this day it is probably as well known by this name as that of Cascade. At the present time nothing is left but the remains of the old mill, and it ground its last grist many years ago. The site of the former village is picturesque and thousands of people make it a picnic ground every year.

CLOVERDALE.

Cloverdale is situated at the junction of the two railroads crossing the township and dates its existence from 1891. It was surveyed and platted by E. W. Dimmick for W. H. and E. M. Mozier, Tunis and Nora Truax and Austin and Mary Combs, the proprietors. The first postoffice was called Drucilla. Although there had been a town here since the construction of the Cloverleaf railroad in 1877, which was known as Evansville, it was never platted, and when the new town was platted the name Cloverdale was given and the former name gradually disappeared. It was incorporated on April 11, 1902.

The first officers were T. J. Ludwig, clerk; Anthony Holguve, treasurer; Peter Harris, marshal; William Strucker, J. A. L. Harris, John Heitzman and Austin Combs, trustees; Austin Combs was the first squire and William Corkwell the first constable.

Settlers who located here as early as 1877 were, Pope Burbage, who ran the first saloon; George Price, who kept the first store; Hollis Hanson, who ran the first saw-mill; Nathan Dalton, who had the first wagon and paint shop, and Austin Combs, the first postmaster. The first house was built by Irvin Ellis and the hotel by Joseph Gingrich. In 1891 the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad was built through the town and it began a steady growth. The tile factory, saw and hub mill, lumber yards, ele-

vator and other smaller industries located here in close succession. A town hall was erected in 1913, at a cost of three thousand dollars, and the place at present has a population of three hundred.

Two churches, grade and parochial schools, and the present general prosperous air of the town give evidence of the thrift and business ability of its settlers. It bids fair to become a thriving little village. The town officers are as follows: Mayor, P. A. Scharf; clerk, O. B. Andrews; treasurer, L. B. Mason; marshal, Edward Lehmkuhle; councilmen, John Blosser, John Berhude, Theo. Horstman, R. E. Baxter, Ben Andrews, and Fred Kohl.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

The first settlements in Pleasant township were made in 1832 by William Turner, Eckless Ney, McDonald Osborn, Henry Morris, James Porter and William McComb. Late in November of the following year John Featheringill came in with his family. Mr. Featheringill secured lodging in an Indian camp until he could hew logs and erect a cabin. John Bogart purchased a farm in the following year and moved on it in March. Adam and James Turner were the next to cast in their lot in the early settlement.

In 1834 the township took on a permanent organization. There were at this time only seven voters in the township and it was through their efforts that the organization was accomplished. Following are the names of the voters: John B. Bogart, William and Adam Turner, Neham Smith, John Featheringill, Abe Fuller and William Casebolt. There is no record of the first officers, but it is certain that they were divided among these early voters, though just what offices each held can not be ascertained. In 1839 the township contained about one hundred inhabitants and fifteen to twenty voters.

The public road, leading from Wapakoneta to Perrysburg, was laid out about 1835, but was not opened for public use until some time later. The first births in the township were twins, Martha and Rebecca, daughters of William Turner, in 1833. The first death was an infant child of McDonald Osborn, which died in December, 1833, and was the first burial in the graveyard at Truro church.

The first log school house was erected in 1836, about half a mile north-east of Columbus Grove, and here John Wamsley conducted the first school in the winter of 1836-37. The postoffice was established in 1844, with Adam Turner as the first postmaster.

The first manufacturing interests established here was an ashery and a

clay pottery factory, by a Mr. Durfee. A store of supplies was later opened by Sheldon Guthrie. The trade consisted of exchanging furs for goods, as money was very scarce. A good hunting hound was valued at one hundred dollars and the government purchased wolf scalps for three and four dollars, this furnishing the settlers with money to pay their taxes.

The first religious services were held in a log cabin belonging to John Bogart, in 1834. The first sermon was rendered by a young man named Cutler, of the Methodist Episcopal faith. In the same year Rev. Mr. Morris, of the Protestant Methodist church, came to this township and held services. Later, Michael Long, who was known as the boy preacher, of the United Brethren church, came to this settlement. In 1836 a Rev. Poge (or Page), of the Presbyterian faith, came to this township and organized the first church of that order here. The Baptists held services at the home of James Turner at an early date.

The present township officials are as follow: Justices of the peace, A. Crawford, L. E. Mullin and Henry Buck; trustees, B. F. Irwin, G. W. Bowess and William Trask; clerk, F. M. Williams; treasurer, Elias Williams; constables, H. L. Irwin and G. W. Luce.

COLUMBUS GROVE.

The village of Columbus Grove was laid out and platted in December, 1842, by Capt. Frederick Fruchey, the proprietor. It was surveyed and platted for the proprietor by Benjamin Dunning. Captain Fruchey and most of the early settlers came from Columbus, Franklin county, and the site of this town being a famous Indian sugar grove, hence the name.

The first house built in Columbus Grove was a log dwelling, erected by John Mumea on the lot where the Lenhart block now stands. The first frame dwelling was built by Samuel Sterlin, who also erected the first brick structure in the village. The first manufacturing establishment was an ashery and pottery, built and operated by the Durfee brothers. They manufactured black salts and pearl ash, and, in the pottery, crocks, jugs and other earthen wares. In 1843 Sheldon Guthrie erected a small building on a lot near the Durfeys' establishment and opened a small supply store, exchanging goods for furs, there being but little money in this new country. Columbus Grove was incorporated in 1864 by John J. Baker and others. The first officers were David Jones, mayor; S. B. McHenry, clerk. The first tavern was built by James Pier. This was a hewed-log structure, three rooms on the ground floor and two on the second. Among the business men of the town in 1850,

in addition to the ones previously mentioned were: Leeman Woodruff, J. B. Jones, Evan R. Davis and E. W. Greene.

Theodore Kunneke came to this village in 1853. He built a saw-mill for Jonathan Brice, and later a mill to grind corn and buckwheat was added. After finishing this contract, Mr. Kunneke purchased two corner lots at the junction of High and Sycamore streets, upon each of which he erected a two-story frame building for business and dwelling. The Kunneke block now stands on one of these lots. A. H. Day came to this village in 1860 and opened up a store. He has contributed as much in the way of substantial buildings as any of its citizens. The New Grove House and the Opera House block were erected by him. Other settlers who followed a short time later and have been large contributors to the material side of the town are: Simon Maple, David Jones, W. W. Williams, Thomas Jones, Robert and J. M. G. Patterson.

The Dayton & Michigan railroad was built through this town in 1859 and ran the first train on July 12 of that year. In 1882 the Pittsburg, Akron & Western was constructed, and in 1895 the Lima Northern was built. The growth of this village is not surprising with its excellent railroad facilities and the enterprising business men at its helm.

The officers of Columbus Grove are as follows: Mayor, W. G. Poast; clerk, Curtis Magher; treasurer, Jay Hartman; marshal, G. J. Doty; councilmen, Benton Martz, W. M. Crawford, R. C. Deffenbaugh, C. M. Doty, Lemuel Bogart, Bert Holmes; trustees of public affairs, J. H. Eversole, Henry Light, H. R. Day.

The following is a list of the business and professional interests of Columbus Grove:

Industries—The Jones handle factory, Columbus Grove Tile Company, Light Lumber Company, Sarber cement block and tile factory, Kissels Poultry and Ice Company, Faze coal yards and cement block factory, McAdams Seed Company, Parker Sanitarium, Columbus Grove Grain Company, Annesser Milling Company, People's Elevator, Jones harness factory, Losh laundry, Williams monument factory, Johnson's Poultry Company, Buckeye garage, Slusser garage.

Stores—H. R. Day, dry goods and groceries; Home Industry, dry goods and groceries; Louis Mapel, clothing; C. E. Magher, grocery; A. K. Sarber, grocery; J. B. Ehrnman, grocery; R. P. Hartman, grocery; Billingsly & Son, grocery; Bert Holmes, druggist; S. E. Lewis, druggist; Humphrey & Sterling, undertaking; Elmer E. Morris, jeweler and optician; Luce & Shinnaberry, meats and groceries; Jones & Kidd, shoes; Stan Sakemiller, shoes; A.

A. Starkwether, implements; Martz & Jones, implements; M. C. Sterling, clothing; Stephens & Kraus, harness and repairing; Lena Smith, millinery; Frost & Gladfelter, meat; Williams Brothers, hardware; W. E. Pease, hardware; Levi Basinger, notion store; H. H. Hollis, pianos; Daniels book store; Daniel Slusser, feed store.

Other Business—R. P. Killen, dentist; A. B. Hilty, dentist; Wittenburg Hotel; L. E. Bogart, restaurant; Haller, restaurant; Charles Murhab, fruit and ice cream; Trice, livery; Bowman, livery; Norris, barber shop; Strow & Cox, barber shop; Wilbur Saunders, barber shop; George Buck, barber shop; Trask, barber shop; C. M. Doty, billiard and pool; Port Tegarden, billiard and pool; Smith & Tate, sale and feed barn; Eversole, smith and repairing; John Davis, horseshoeing.

Banks—Peoples and Exchange.

Doctors—E. A. Balmer, Walter C. Corns, H. H. Sink, G. H. Wilcox, W. H. Begg, Isaac Fullerton.

Columbus Grove, being situated in a very rich agricultural community and with excellent railway facilities, is able to bear the reputation of being one of the largest shipping centers of live stock in the state. The annual shipments of live stock are, normally, three hundred and twenty-five cars; grain, hay and straw, four hundred and fifty cars; sugar beets, two hundred cars; other shipments, including eggs, dressed poultry, wool, handles, etc., sixty-eight cars.

RILEY TOWNSHIP.

The organization of Riley township dates from 1834 and at that time included the present township of Richland (Allen county), in addition to its present area. The first settler, Thomas Gray (1832), was followed the next year by John Sigafoose, Adam Stout, Moses Rice, Bildad Hubbard and B. F. Dunning. The year 1834 brought in a large number of families, including those of George Bushong, Thomas Lake, James Bunn, J. D. Wamsley, William Hand, John Hand, Jacob Clover, George Farnum, Myron Rice, Isaiah Cook, N. H. Bagley, Peter Rice, William Thrapp, George Blackburn, George Alkire, Stephen Cortright and George Wilson. Jesse Hall and a few others located in the township in the following year. All of these early settlers were known as Yankees and were sturdy pioneers, well fitted to cope with the dangers and privations of frontier life such as faced them when they settled here.

Before 1835, however, the German migration to this township began.



COLUMBUS GROVE IN 1851.



COLUMBUS GROVE IN 1911

These settlers were natives of Switzerland, although of German descent. Daniel Nicewander and Dorse Amstutz settled here in 1833 and were followed in the succeeding year by Christian Suter, Christian Basinger and Christian Bucher. Bucher lived to be one hundred years and seven months of age, dying in 1879. The wife of Bucher died in 1835, hers being the first death in the German settlement. In 1835 came Christian and John Shoemaker, John and Ulric Basinger, John Musser and Christian Steiner. The year 1846 brought in John Diller, Christian Amstutz, Christian Lugabill, John Geiger, John Lugabill and David Stauffer. The German settlement kept growing from year to year and was soon one of the most prosperous sections of the county. These were all Mennonites and as soon as they settled they made provisions for religious services. At first they held services in the homes of the settlers, but by 1840 they had a substantial hewed-log church. Christian Steiner was the first pastor.

The first election in Riley township was held in April, 1834, at the home of Thomas Gray, and at that time the following officers were elected: Thomas Gray, Joseph DeFord and John Stout, trustees; William Hand, clerk; Bildad Hubbard, supervisor; Thomas Gray, justice of the peace; George Farnum, constable. These appear to have been only temporary officers; at least, another election was held in April of the following year, at which the following corps of officials were selected: John Stout, Moses Rice and George Wilson, trustees; N. H. Bagley, clerk; Bildad Hubbard, supervisor; J. D. Wamsley, justice of the peace; George Farnum, constable. The township retained its original area until 1847, when the southern tier of seven sections was detached and added to Allen county, leaving the township with thirty square miles.

The first road through the township was what was known as the Williamstown road, and this was followed shortly afterward by the Findlay-Van Wert road. William J. Wilson was the first pedagogue and taught his first school in the winter of 1836-37. Another school house was built the same year, but history has not preserved the name of its first teacher.

The present officers of Riley township are as follows: Justices of the peace, M. E. Krohn and Daniel Schumacher; trustees, P. P. Schumacher, W. M. Risser and C. R. Van Meter; clerk, P. A. Amstutz; treasurer, S. P. Krohn; constables, Edward Basinger and J. H. Culp.

PANDORA.

John Stout laid out the town of Columbia, December 1, 1836. The previous year he had built a grist-mill on Riley creek, one of the first grist-

mills of the county, which was a great convenience for the early settlers. This town was situated upon the Ridge road, leading from Findlay to Kalida and Delphos, and about half way between the county seats of Hancock and Putnam counties. For many years it was the stopping place of the lawyers and judges, while "traveling the circuit" in the early days before 1851. The tavern was kept by Henry Kilheffer and travelers on their way from Findlay to Kalida spent the night here. Many stories are still told of the jolly times that were had at the old tavern.

Later, the name was changed to Pendleton, and in 1850 the first addition was laid out by Brice W. Viers. Henry Kilheffer owned the only store at this time and in 1852 he laid out East Pendleton, which was surveyed by Henry Blosser, county surveyor. It bears the distinction of being the only town that was ever platted in Riley township.

In 1882 the narrow gauge railroad, which has since become a standard gauge road and known as the Pittsburg, Akron & Western railroad, was proposed and constructed through the town. The same year Kiene and Suter laid out their addition to the town. The name of the town was again changed, this time to Pandora, and evidently the "third time charm" worked, for it has retained that name to the present time.

Additions were laid out in 1891, by H. M. Day; 1893, by R. N. McAdams; the same year S. P. Krohn laid out his addition and the following year H. M. Day laid out a second addition. It was re-surveyed by an order from the court, April 24, 1892, and incorporated on November 5th of the same year.

Situated as it was, in the center of one of the best-improved sections of the county, surrounded with rich farm land and magnificent buildings which can hardly be surpassed in any locality of the state, it took a slow deep-rooted growth, which began to show a few years later. The farms were settled principally by sturdy Menmonites, whose faith forbids quarreling and litigation.

The overall factory has been one of the greatest agents in making Pandora what it is at present. The history of this factory will appear in another paragraph. The population in 1910 numbered five hundred and sixty-two. It has paved streets, a modern high school, bank, and stores that rival any in the county. The Ohio & Northern railroad gives the people accommodations east and west. The Pandora Milling Company does quite an extensive business in this locality. The lumber and planing mills also employ a number of men and carry on a large business in their line. The present town officials are: Mayor, P. A. Amstutz; clerk, Grover Davidson; treas-

urer, A. S. Hilty; marshal, John Culp; councilmen, Samuel Haas, P. D. Amstutz, C. C. Hilty, John Gerber, J. A. Suter, Adam Bixler.

PANDORA MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Pandora Manufacturing Company, which was formerly called the Pandora Overall Company, was organized in August, 1901, by the following men, who were not only the founders, but the first officers and directors: John M. Amstutz, president; John Gerber, vice-president; Jacob A. Suter, secretary and treasurer; Albert A. Burry, Carl Gerber. It was capitalized at ten thousand dollars. Five thousand six hundred dollars of the stock was retained by the founders and the rest was sold to outsiders. In the fall of same year the plant was started, with six sewing machines. The minutes of the directors give the first purchase of raw material in October. The first overalls were made in a part of an old woolen mill, where the first six machines were installed.

The success of the business seemed assured from the start and in 1902 the capital stock was increased to twenty-five thousand dollars. A part of this stock was offered for sale to outsiders. In September of this year W. E. Caldwell, of Cincinnati, purchased stock in the company and became its secretary and manager. At this same time four more directors were added, and it is interesting to note that one of these men was Elias Welty, the present manager. The woolen mill burned in September, 1902, before the new stock was offered for sale. This meant a loss, as the factory was only partly insured.

Work on a new building was immediately begun, which is part of the present structure. Owing to an increase of business, electric cutters were installed in 1903. Mr. Caldwell served as manager until 1905, when he was succeeded by John De Haan, who was formerly manager of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In 1905 an addition was built, doubling the capacity of the factory. In the same year a number of Toledo men became interested in the company and purchased a controlling interest, the capital stock being increased to fifty thousand dollars. In 1906 a similar plant was started at Toledo and the main offices moved to that place, but this move proved a failure and the plant was discontinued in 1908. The following year Mr. De Haan resigned as manager and Elias Welty, who has been mentioned previously as a stockholder and director, became manager and secretary. To say that Mr. Welty was competent to fill the position would be speaking modestly, as he had been connected with the factory for eight years

and served in every capacity and department from engineer up. In 1910 A. J. Welty became interested and purchased the Toledo stock, thus bringing the control back to the Pandora community.

From this time forward the success of the factory was assured and in the year 1912 more business was done than in any two previous years and more salesmen were added. Orders were coming in so fast that it was impossible to fill them. It was deemed advisable to add another factory, which was located at Celina, Ohio. A shirt factory was also added at Zanesville, Ohio, owing to a demand for this commodity. These factories were merely taken over by this company and placed under their competent management.

In 1913 the capital stock was again increased, this time to one hundred thousand dollars. The following year the output was two hundred thousand dollars. In 1915 the name was changed, due to the fact that it was not an overall factory alone, but a manufacturing plant. The present directors and officers are: P. B. Hilty, president; J. A. Suter, vice-president; A. J. Welty, secretary; Elias Welty, manager; W. B. Jackson, manager of the Celina plant; A. G. Bruhl, manager of the Zanesville plant; David Lichty, Cleo Neuenschwander, A. P. Sandles, B. A. Unverferth and John De Haan.

This is the largest manufacturing plant in Putnam county and the present output amounts to a quarter of a million dollars a year. The stock is always in demand and the company has done a great service to the county in furnishing employment for so many men and women. The laborers are all paid by piece work and the management is so liberal in its wages that good salaries can be made by skilled and even competent labor, and no hardship is worked upon its employees.

WEBSTER.

This was a small country town, but was never platted. The postoffice for the town was called Stanley, but this later covered by a rural route and ceased to exist.

SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Sugar Creek township was surveyed in 1820 by James Riley and originally embraced thirty-six sections of land. In the year 1848, when Auglaize county was formed, the south half of this township was attached to Allen county and, in order to make Sugar Creek township of an average size and also to compensate for the loss, two tiers of sections were added



SCENES IN PANDORA OVERALL FACTORY.



SHIPPING DEPARTMENT



SCENES IN PANDORA OVERALL FACTORY

on the north from Union township. It then contained thirty sections of land and this was to be its permanent size. It derived its name from Sugar creek, which flows north through the center part of the township. Hog creek also runs through the township about two miles west of Sugar creek and parallel with it. This excellent drainage made it a very desirable township to settle in and, since it was not covered with swamps, as some of the northern townships were, practically the entire acreage was suitable for cultivation.

The first settlement was made on Hog creek, in the southern part, by Robert Martin and Solomon Sprague, in the year 1828. The following year Benjamin Parker and a Mr. McCoy decided to make this their permanent settlement. In 1830 William Clevenger took up his claim and he was followed, a short time later, by Benjamin, Jacob, Joseph, George and Samuel Clevenger, who made their settlement near the present village of Vaughnsville. They built the Clevenger mill in the following year. This mill is thought by many of the early settlers who still survive to be the first grist-mill in the county. The same year saw John Ensley and Peter Rhodes casting in their lots with the scattered settlers, and, in 1832, Rhodes built the first saw-mill in the county. As there was an abundance of timber at that time, it did a great amount of business. The next settlers were James Ramsey, Selah Bennum, Obed Martin and Isaac Guffy, who came with their families in 1832. In 1833 there was a further addition of the families of Samuel Ramsey, James Nicholas, Thomas Watkins, David Roberts, Jackson Miller, Samuel McMullen, John and Joseph Tegarden and Henry Tegarden. In 1834 William Guffy, John Watkins, Henry Davis, John R. Jones, Richard Richards, David Crabill and Joseph Ford, and, in 1835, John Deffenbaugh and perhaps a few others.

The township took on a temporary organization in 1832 or 1833. This organization included what afterwards became the townships of Monroe, Pleasant, Union and Sugar Creek. The first township officers were as follows: Obed Martin, justice of the peace; James Nicholas, later served as the second justice of the peace; Samuel Ramsey, constable; George Niell, William Patrick and Jackson Miller, trustees; Benjamin Clevenger, treasurer, and James Nicholas, clerk.

At the gubernatorial election in October, 1834, Sugar Creek township polled thirty-four votes, and at the same election in 1879, just forty-five years later, there were two hundred and eighty-on votes cast.

The Sugar Creek township officials are: Justices of the peace, R. W. Jones and David Jones, trustees, John L. Miller, Morton Wood and Will-

iam Sakemiller; clerk, D. R. Hinkle; treasurer, B. F. Smith; constables, S. L. Griffith and Walter Salsbury.

VAUGHNSVILLE.

The first town laid out in the township was Monterey, in 1847. This was platted by Eli Clevenger and took in all that part of the town lying south of what is now known as the Vaughnsville and Columbus Grove road.

That part of the town lying north of this road was platted the same year by D. C. Vaughn, who called it Vaughnsville. Eventually, the name Monterey was dropped and Vaughnsville now includes both plats. Vaughnsville has a bank, an elevator, saw-mill, and stores which carry well-selected stocks of goods. The town is beautifully located, lying on the east side of Sugar creek, and is surrounded by a prosperous and thriving farming community. The farmers are well to do, lands are under a high state of cultivation and fine buildings indicate prosperity. Vaughnsville has never been incorporated, as it is a good trading point for the township and does not see the need of corporate government. A consolidated high school affords excellent educational opportunities for the children of the township. The Northern Ohio railroad gives it a ready outlet to foreign markets.

RIMER.

Rimer was laid out in 1881 by James W. Rimer, for D. P. Rimer, the proprietor. It is situated on the east bank of the Ottawa river, and on the Northern Ohio railroad. This town was first called Roxburg, but later the name was changed for that of the original owner. The schools of this township were consolidated and this necessitated the building of a fourteen-thousand-dollar school building, which was located at Rimer. This is a very prosperous little village.

JONES CITY.

Jones City was platted in 1890, at the intersection of the Northern railroad and the Ohio Electric line. It was laid out for R. W. and Ella Jones by Evan H. Jones, surveyor, and from whom it derived its name.

CENTER POINT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Center Point Agricultural Society was organized in 1905. In the fall of that year the farmers in Sugar Creek township had an enormous crop of clover seed to be hulled. No huller was in the community, and, as winter was coming on, it looked as though the seed was going to waste. Twenty farmers formed a partnership and bought a huller, and in this way saved the crop of clover seed. This was the beginning of the organization, and, since it worked to such good success on the first experiment, it was tried not only on harvesting the grain, but also on selling it and buying provisions. A constitution was formed and by-laws were adopted. It is not an incorporation, neither is it a secret organization, but the members are taken in by a vote of the society. Its objects at present are to promulgate a helpful, sociable and friendly feeling among its members and to promote their financial interests by buying in large quantities and saving a needless waste. "We do not intend to crush the dealer in the small town, but to make life easier for him by buying in large amounts, paying cash and saving him the needless worry over bad debts."

UNION TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers in what is now known as Union township were Abram Sarber and family and Joseph Clevenger and family, in the year 1831. The next year, Joseph and George Clevenger, with their families, settled here. In 1833 this little group was swelled by the addition of seven families: Adam Sarber, Jacob Clevenger, Jenkin Hughes, William Clevenger, Samuel Gander and Daniel Rimer. In 1834 there was a further addition to the township of the families of Moses Lee, Robert McCracken, William Philips, Isaac McCracken, Sheldon Guthrie, Arthur E. Martin and Joseph Miller.

In 1832 the township took on a temporary organization. The officers were appointed by an order from the court, and the township was organized into one road district, with John Guffy as the first supervisor. The following were the first officers of the newly organized township: Moses Lee, William Clevenger and Adam Sarber as trustees and Abram Sarber as clerk. They held their meeting on March 2, 1835, to issue an order for the division of the township into three road districts, and the electors were notified by advertisement by the clerk "of the town meeting" for the election of township officers "as required by law." At this same meeting they

issued orders of one dollar and fifty cents to each of the trustees for services; also an order to Abram Sarber for seventy-five cents for his services as clerk for the past year.

On April 2, 1835, an election was held at the home of William Philips and the following officers were elected: William Clevenger, Adam Sarber and Richard Lee, trustees; Abram Sarber, clerk; William Clevenger, treasurer; John Guffey, George Clevenger and Johnston Crawford, supervisors; Moses Lee and Winton Risley, overseers of the poor; F. C. Fitch and Winton Risley, fence viewers; William Clevenger and Moses Lee, justices of the peace; James Lee and Henry Guffey, constables.

The first tax was levied on March 7, 1836, which was one mill on the dollar. The expenditures for the year 1836 were fifteen dollars and forty cents; receipts for taxes were four dollars and forty cents.

On September 10, 1836, the trustees met and divided the township into two school districts. District number one comprised the south part of the township, two and one-half miles wide by six miles long. District number two was the north part and was three and one-half miles wide by six miles long.

KALIDA.

Kalida, the first town laid out in Union township, was platted in 1834. On June 24, 1834, Moses Lee purchased the first lot and built the first cabin in the village. His son, H. G. Lee, cut the first log. In the same year Sheldon Guthrie built the first frame house. This was sided with clapboards and in later years was quite a relic of the past and a monument to its builder. Sheldon Guthrie established the first store in the same year.

Putnam county was created by an act of Congress passed January 3, 1834. A provision was contained in this same act whereby a town director should be appointed, whose duty it was to select and survey one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 5, township 1 south, range 6 east, in Putnam county, and, under the direction of the county commissioners, lay out a town, and that the town so laid out should be the county seat.

The town director, with the commissioners, were to sell the lots and from the proceeds, less two hundred dollars, which was to be paid to the state, the county should receive money to pay the expenses of the county.

On May 5, 1834, Abram Sarber was appointed by the court of common pleas as town director and Thomas Gray, William Priddy, Samuel Myers were appointed county commissioners; F. C. Fitch, county surveyor. The town was laid out and named Kalida (The Beautiful) and became the



COMMITTEES OF MID WINTER FAIR, VAUGHINSVILLE, DECEMBER, 1913.

seat of justice of the county. For the first year the court of common pleas was held at the home of Abram Sarber.

The town was incorporated on February 16, 1839, by an act of the Legislature and the mayor and council were elected. In 1843 corporate powers seem to have been too heavy for the citizens to bear and on March 14 of that year they asked the Legislature to repeal the act of incorporation, retaining the council in office for one year, "to settle the business of the corporation," and at the expiration of their term of office they were again elected for three years longer, or until 1847. The next articles of incorporation were not taken out until 1857.

Such prominent men as John Morris, Alonzo Skinner, John McClure, Levi Rice, T. E. Cunningham, William H. Ball, Benjamin F. Metcalf, James McKenzie, attorneys; R. W. Thrift and C. M. Godfrey, physicians; C. H. Rice, merchant, settled in Kalida between 1843 and 1848. It would be hard to find an equal number of men starting together who have made a better record.

The first court house was built in 1835, and a second brick one was completed in 1840. A fire in the recorder's office about 1862 injured and destroyed many of the records and in the winter of 1864-65 the court house was entirely destroyed by fire. The old records were destroyed, but the new and transcribed ones were saved.

The town grew slowly until 1840, when the increase in the number of settlers in the county and the opening of many farms caused a marked increase in the population. Its growth was steady until 1866, when the county seat was removed to Ottawa. This was a great reverse for the prosperous little village and for a time it seemed to stagnate, but the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western and the Columbus, Lima & Milwaukee railroads were constructed and this later helped to offset the loss of the county seat.

At present Kalida has one of the Odenweller elevators, a bank, newspaper, modern high school and the business houses are modern in every respect. In 1910 the population was seven hundred and seventy. Situated in a good agricultural community, this town is sure to have a steady growth. The present officers are: Mayor, Guy R. Coit; clerk, Samuel Stevens; treasurer, Louis Kline; marshal, Homer Davidson; councilmen, L. Vonder Embse, Charles Veach, Ed Rower, A. G. Underwood, J. M. Rimer, Joseph Foltz; trustees of public affairs, Charles Veach and Guy R. Coit.

The township officials are: Justices of the peace, Frank Logan and J. F. Stauffer; trustees, J. G. Crawford, J. J. Gerdeman and Joseph Siefker;

clerk, William Rambo; treasurer, Charles C. Borman; constables, Jefferson Row and Stanley Godwin; ditch superintendent, J. Price Jones.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

Van Buren township was not organized by the county commissioners until 1843, having been known as North Blanchard for ten years, or from the time Blanchard township was organized. It was slow in being settled, due to the extreme swampiness of much of the land, a fact which is set forth in a striking manner in the field notes of James Heaton, who surveyed it in 1821. He says: "While surveying this township, I dug five wells twenty feet deep, for water, the swamp water being unfit for use. At some future day this swamp will probably be drained, as it may be in four or five different directions. The soil in this township averages as good second rate; but at present the land is so wet and miry, and there are such masses of fallen timbers, that there appears to be nothing inviting to the agriculturist to settle in it." If this same surveyor could see the broad and well-tilled acres of today, he would doubtless be surprised at the changes which time has wrought. Practically all of the once swampy land has been reclaimed and now fields of waving grain may be seen, where formerly swamps and morasses reigned supreme.

The year 1835 saw the first permanent settler locate in the township and Abraham Baughman will go down in Van Buren township as the first man to brave the terrors of the malaria and ague within its limits. He was followed shortly afterward by Hiram Hull, John Broadsword, William Killpatrick, Ludwig Hull, James Davis, Elvington Hull and James Reed. These sterling pioneers made several efforts to effect a township organization before 1843, but failed each time, because they could not muster a sufficient number of voters. It was not until Abraham Baughman, the first settler, offered his personal bond, guaranteeing the county against any probable loss, that the commissioners granted the request of the petitioners. That the township was very sparsely settled is very evident from the report of the first election, on February 18, 1843. At that time only twelve votes were cast, and, so history records, only nine of these represented actual settlers, the other three being imported for the occasion. There were barely enough voters to fill all the offices and it will be noticed that some men held more than one office. The first officers included the following: Abraham Baughman, Elvington A. Hull and John Davis, trustees; Marcus Thrapp, clerk;

Elvington A. Hull, treasurer; Jacob Nemire and Adam Krites, overseers of the poor; Abraham Baughman and David Tyner, fence viewers; Lemuel Hickerson, constable. At a subsequent election, May 20, 1843, Elvington A. Hull was elected the first justice of the peace.

The trustees were anxious to provide educational facilities for the few children, as is evidenced by their meeting, on March 6, 1843, for the purpose of dividing the township into two school districts, No. 1 being the east half of the township, and No. 2, the west half. At an election held on April 3, 1843, more officers were elected and the two townships divided into two road districts, with Bardett Hull and John Davis as supervisors. The road districts coincided with the school districts.

LEIPSIC.

Leipsic was laid out and platted by James E. Creighton, on January 20, 1857. The first ground platted into lots in the corporate limits of the present town was that lying east of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and both north and south of the Nickel Plate. This village first bore the name of Creighton, in honor of its founder, but it was incorporated under the name of Leipsic. On August 29, 1859, Joseph Swartz laid out a plat of land east of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and called it Leipsic station. The following year Mr. Swartz laid out an addition to the same plat, these two plats being recorded under the name Leipsic.

The growth of this village began in the year 1859, when the first train run over the Dayton & Michigan railroad. The first train passing over this railroad signaled the denizens of an almost impenetrable forest. By the construction of this railroad, the outlet for the timber and other products of this country was assured, and settlers began to arrive, thus opening up one of the greatest sections in the state. The growth of this section is a marvel of progress and productiveness. One of the potent factors in the prosperity of this section and the impetus which stirred early settlers was the Buckeye Stave Company and too much praise cannot be given this company for their excellent work in making Leipsic one of the foremost towns of the county.

The early settlers in this village were J. B. Swartz, Wellington Hurd, David McClung, C. W. Askam and wife and Al Tingle. In 1860 S. and W. P. Young and D. G. Leffler settled here. The following year Mrs. John Foltz, G. D. Foltz, Jacob Werner and Absalom Foulk risked their fortunes with the progress of the new town. In 1863 A. F. Easton and wife, T. J. Werner, Samuel Waters and wife, and in 1865 J. H. Askam, Andrew C.

Aslam and E. Leffler, completing the list of early settlers and pioneer residents. These men of brawn and courage had placed on the map of the country a thriving little village with the strength to combat in the field of commerce.

Chief among the early industries which operated in Leipsic are: The Buckeye Stave Company; the Leipsic Flouring-mill, which was erected in the year 1872 by W. C. Miller; the Leipsic planing-mill, which was owned and operated by Messrs. O. E. Townsend and John Zahrends, and the following companies: Leipsic machine works, A. F. Easton & Son, the Leipsic brick yard, tile yard, creamery, and two good elevators.

The churches and schools of this village are ranked with the best and have been discussed to a fuller degree in another chapter.

This town has been visited by quite a few disastrous fires, but the citizens were undaunted by these reversals of fortune and immediately set to work replacing them with better and larger structures. The town stands as a monument to its own prosperity and growth.

The different business enterprises at present are: The Leffler Hotel, which was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars and is an emblem of architectural progress and a monument to his memory; the Bank of Leipsic, the Temco Company, R. T. Terry, tile manufacturer, and many other industries. The stores cater to all the wants of the citizens of the town and also to the country trade.

The present officials are: Mayor, E. V. Burns; clerk, C. J. Erickson; treasurer, Earl Andrews; marshal, Charles McKeen; councilmen, W. T. Starling, W. D. Hickey, Dallas Kirk, J. B. Weber, L. D. Wendle, Joseph Faber; trustees of public affairs, W. A. Bell, J. A. Parsons, C. W. Fogle.

THE TEMCO ELECTRIC MOTOR COMPANY.

The Temco Electric Motor Company, an Ohio corporation, with its main factory and office at Leipsic, was organized and chartered in the fall of 1911. The Temco Company was successor to the American Foundry Company, which had been doing a general foundry business up to that time.

The name, Temco, is derived from the first letters of the name "The Electric Motor Company." This company was organized for the purpose of manufacturing electric portable tools and small motors. The line originally consisted of electric portable drills, grinders, buffers, polishers and small fractional-horse-power motors. Later, automobile accessories, such as shock absorbers, electric generators, ignitors and starters, were added to

the original line of general machinery. The Temco Company has the distinction of building the first and original shock absorber for the Ford cars.

In the beginning, the equipment consisted of six or eight machines, which furnished employment to a similar number of men. It covered about twenty-five hundred feet of floor space, all on the ground floor. With the rapid increase in the business, as their products became known, more machinery and greater floor space were added, and the pay-roll was increased, also. At present it covers about thirty-two thousand square feet of floor space, in a two- and three-story brick plant, using electric motors aggregating about two hundred and fifty horse power and furnishing employment for one hundred and fifty to two hundred men and women.

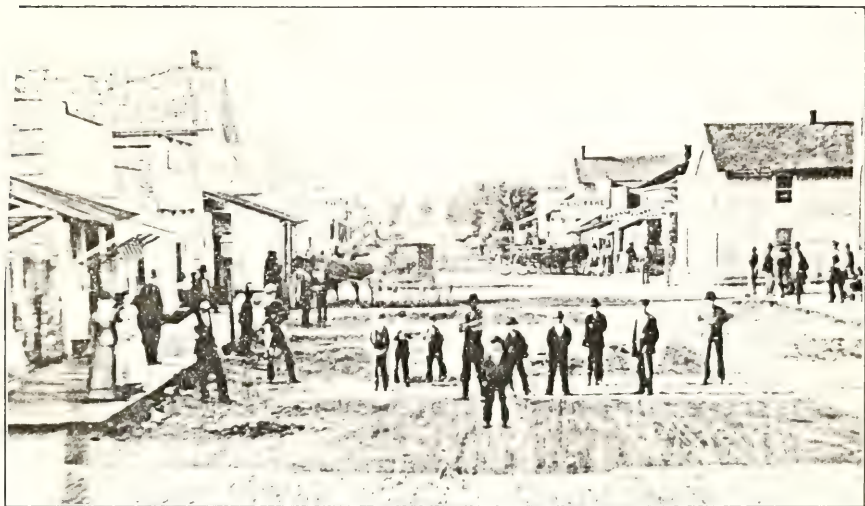
The power and light for the factory are furnished by electricity, each machine having an individual motor, with silent chain drive. No overhead line-shaft is used in any part of the plant. Every requirement of the state is adhered to in reducing the possibility of accidents to a minimum. The plant is steam heated throughout, from its own boiler, placed in the plant for that purpose alone. Wash-rooms and coat-rooms are provided on the first and second floors. The plant has had a steady growth from the beginning, and, judging from the success which the sale of its products has met with, the Temco Electric Motor Company will soon be numbered among the leading manufacturing plants of northwestern Ohio. Their products are shipped to every part of the globe, the principal importing countries for their goods being South America, England, France, Australia, Russia, Asia and Africa.

BUCKEYE STAVE COMPANY.

The Buckeye Stave Company was one of the potent factors in the advancement of Leipsic in a material way. This company has grown from a humble beginning in Leipsic to an enormous business, which extends from northern Michigan to the Gulf states and west to the Pacific coast states, and gives employment to a large force of men.

This company was organized in 1886, with the following stockholders: John Edwards, W. W. Edwards, L. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten, all of whom were residents of Leipsic. At the time of its organization the company controlled twelve factories, located at Leipsic, Columbus Grove and Continental, and employed one hundred men.

In 1887 this company purchased the Bank of Leipsic and in 1890 they placed a stave factory in Pleasant Bend; in 1891 they built a factory at Kahola and also at Vici; in 1892 the Elm Center stave factory was pur-



LEIPZIG IN 1877.



LEIPZIG IN 1911.

chased and placed under their control, and the same year a factory was located at Marcellona, Michigan, but this was removed to Gladstone, Michigan, in 1894. The Continental Bank was organized in 1891, and at present has responsibilities amounting to one million dollars.

The growth of this company has been very rapid, and in 1895, after only nine years' time, they employed one thousand men, with a yearly payroll of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars and a paid-up capital stock of five hundred and thirty thousand dollars. Their holdings include extensive timber and farm lands in this and other states, and the growth of the business has far exceeded the hopes of the promoters. In 1888 the interests of Lenhart were purchased, and in 1893 Joseph H. Edwards purchased a one-fourth interest. The company has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world. It has always been liberal to its employees and fair in its dealings, and has contributed liberally to public and private improvement and all works for the betterment of the community. The company owns a large amount of farm land at the present time, which it has improved and placed under cultivation, after removing the timber. This company stands today with its many business enterprises in the full confidence of the business world.

BELMORE (MONTGOMERYVILLE).

Montgomeryville was laid out and platted in 1862 by Deputy County Surveyor John Shakely, for Wesley G. Montgomery, acting under the power of attorney for Benjamin and Mary Ann Plummer as proprietors. The village is situated in the northern part of Van Buren township, on the Dayton & Michigan railroad. The original plat of seventeen lots was laid on the eastern side of the railroad and the town took its name from the surveyor. About the year 1868 the name was changed to Belmore, as the postoffice had given that name and two names caused quite a little confusion.

Additions to the village were laid by the following proprietors: In 1866, the Dayton & Michigan railroad, Knox and Speaker; in 1874, John H. George and Alexander Williamson. Other additions followed later. The village was incorporated in 1882, with the following officers: O. Judson, mayor; P. L. Baker, clerk; W. Winkler, treasurer; Theodore Ludwig, marshal; A. J. Showers, D. Ensminger, J. H. Ensminger, W. Mull, Nimrod Speaker and I. B. Hathaway, councilmen.

Although the town has had no large manufactures or any natural resources to aid in its growth, still it is a substantial country town and the stores do a good business. The farmers in this locality are accommodated

with the stores which handle all the different commodities and cater to the farmers' trade.

The present officers are: Mayor, C. R. Blauvelt; clerk, Kenneth R. Casteel; treasurer, William Glaser; marshal, Mathias Vogelpohl; councilmen, W. E. Saul, Henry Rader, L. M. Hickerson, F. E. Critchet, I. E. Blauvelt and Lefe Fox.

The population in 1910 was two hundred and ninety-eight.

SPITZER (TOWNWOOD).

The village of Spitzer, located on the Nickel Plate railroad, four miles east of Leipsic, was platted by Aaron Overbeck, county surveyor, in 1886. The town was laid out for Howard C. Tinkham, but was named in honor of the Spitzer Brothers, of Toledo, Ohio, who were largely interested in lands adjoining the village. Owing to the fact that there was another town of the same name in Ohio, it was changed to Townwood.

WARD.

Ward was the name given to a little town located on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, but was never platted and at present is only a railroad siding.

The present officials of Van Buren township are: Justices of the peace, Jacob Leffler, T. J. Huffman, J. E. Fisher and Nimrod Speaker; trustees, James Robinson, E. B. Limmonds and H. H. Montooth; clerk, Thomas J. Shuly; treasurer, E. C. Kuntz; constables, Joseph Butler and Daniel Butler.

CHAPTER VII.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

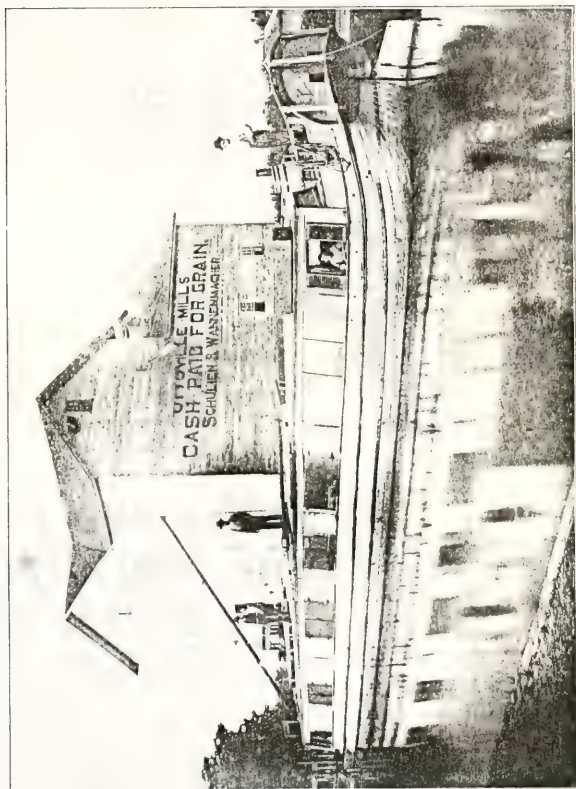
Prior to the year 1820 the territory now embraced in Putnam county was inhabited by but few white people and by a limited number of Indians, a remnant of the Ottawa tribe, who made Tawa village their abode. A reservation of five miles square, consisting of nearly all of what is now Ottawa township, had been granted them, but not in perpetuity, as, by a treaty entered into in 1830, another reservation was given to them in Kansas and they were deported to that territory. However, a few of them remained in this locality and county for several years afterwards, not desiring to go to their new reservation. It was not until the years from 1831 to 1834 that emigration of any large number of people to this county occurred. During these years many settlers located along Blanchard river and other streams through the county.

In connection with the early navigation of Blanchard river it may be said that in the government surveys the Blanchard is designated as a navigable stream and that it is still so designated on all government charts, but no one has ever come across "the old citizen" who said that he was frequently disturbed by the blowing of the whistles of the steamboats passing up and down the river.

EARLY MARKETING FACILITIES.

The great problem of these early settlers was the method by which they could market their limited amount of farm products and thus secure needed articles necessary for their welfare. While their surplus products were not great, they were sufficient for their limited wants. As the roads at that time were but trails along the rivers, which could only be traveled at certain times of the year by teams drawing wagons, the "boy on horseback" was the chief master of transportation of what wheat and corn was taken to the "grinder" to be converted into flour and meal. When the trails were passable in the summer and fall, trips were made to Lower Sandusky, which at that time was an outlet to the lake, trails to Maumee or Perrysburg not then being opened.

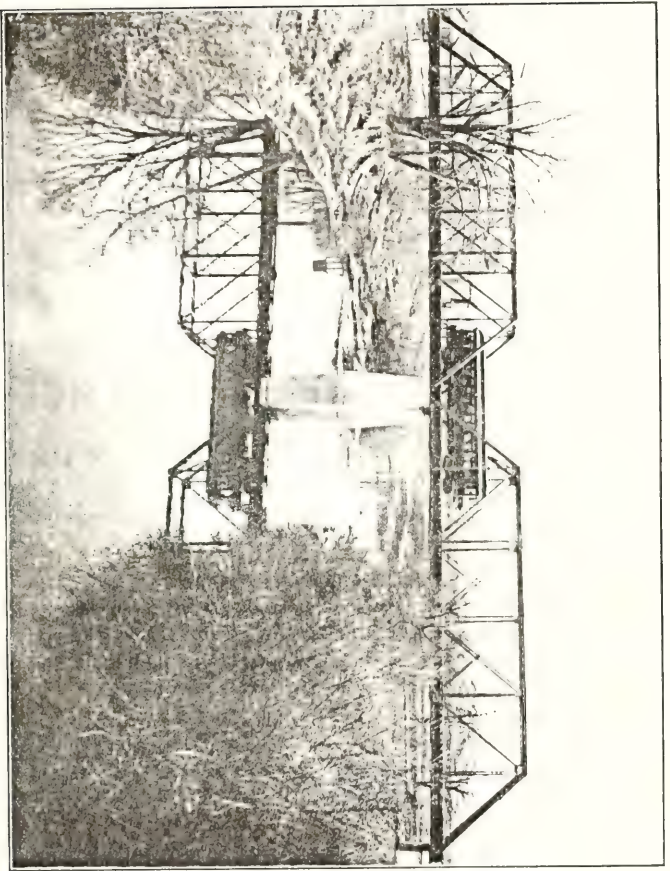
Upon the completion of the canal in 1845, a new outlet was established



IN THE PALMY DAYS OF THE OLD CANAL.



INTERIOR BRIDGE AT OTTAWA



by way of the river to Defiance and thence by canal to Toledo. This opened navigation on the Blanchard river and a lively business was transacted by the conveyance of the surplus grain, pork, butter, eggs, etc., to Defiance. For this purpose a small boat, called a pirogue, was used and those who possessed these crafts made the business quite profitable. A number of these pirogues were forty feet in length and three to four feet in breadth and would carry a great amount of grain and other products. The individuals who owned these small crafts were expert mariners and, notwithstanding the dangers lurking in the river at that time, which was filled with drift and hidden snags, comparatively few mishaps occurred to these early mariners of the Blanchard. However, now and then they "had troubles of their own," as the following incident shows, which we copy from the *Defiance Democrat*, of April, 1852, and which refers to one of our most prominent and most worthy former citizens:

"J. P. Simon, of Putnam county, recovered a judgment of ten dollars and costs against the canal boat 'Gold Digger,' before Squire Bouton, on Wednesday, for damages done to his pirogue, through carelessness or inattention of the hands on the 'Gold Digger.' This settles the question that the Blanchard river boatmen and others with their pirogues, at our river docks, are entitled to some protection and that canal boatmen must be more cautious."

ADVENT OF THE RAILROADS.

The opening of the Mad River Railroad, the first in the state, from Dayton to Sandusky City, in 1849, and the subsequent construction of a strap-iron railroad from Findlay to Carey to connect with the Mad River Railroad, gave the people of the eastern part of this county another outlet to the lakes, and the public highways being made more passable, diverted trade to Findlay, nearly all surplus products being marketed at that place.

In 1859 the Dayton & Michigan Railroad was completed through the county, and a new artery of trade established which furnished an outlet for the greater part of the county and did more than any other thing toward the development and growth of the county. This road, now known as the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, ran its first train on July 4, 1859, from Lima to Toledo. The other steam roads commenced operation through the county on the following dates: Nickle Plate, July 4, 1881; Clover Leaf, September, 1877, from Delphos to Dupont; Northern Ohio, October, 1881; Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western, fall of 1888; Kalida & Defiance, 1899; Detroit, Toledo & Ironton.

The following is a statement of the mileage and valuation of the steam and electric lines operating in Putnam county, as well as of the telegraph and telephone lines:

Railroad.	Mileage.	Valuation.
Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton (main line)-----	19. 8	\$851,810
Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western -----	24.11	408,590
Columbus, Lima & Milwaukee -----	11.23	149,470
Detroit, Toledo & Ironton -----	19.58	206,730
New York Central & St. Louis-----	24. 6	1,611,840
Ohio Electric (Toledo branch)-----	20. 3	
Ohio Electric (Defiance branch)-----	22.41	
Northern Ohio -----	23.42	565,850
Toledo, St. Louis & Western--	20.24	175,160
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Total -----	185.69	\$3,969,450

TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPH (LONG DISTANCE).

Western Union—miles of wire-----	1,027.55	\$61,560
Ohio Telephone and Telegraph-----	28.02	2,800
Ohio Postal Telegraph and Cable-----	233.30	11,450

TELEPHONES (LOCAL).

There are some thirty local telephone companies in Putnam county. Some of these are large companies, while a few of them have only a very short stretch of wire. The following is a complete list:

Name of Company.	Miles of Wire.	Valu- ation.	Town or Twp.
Ottawa Farmers Mutual -----	168	\$10,390	Ottawa
Receivers, Central Union-----	174	10,380	Ottawa
Putnam Telephone Company-----	2,416	93,710	Putnam Co.
Miller City Farmers Mutual-----	117	2,270	Miller City
Glandorf Mutual -----	70	2,600	Glandorf
Continental Farmers Mutual-----	32	7,000	Continental
Pandora Mutual -----	108	4,650	Pandora
Columbus Grove Mutual -----	323	8,150	Columbus Grove
Ft. Jennings Farmers Mutual-----	180	4,800	Ft. Jennings

Name of Company	Miles of Wire.	Valu- ation.	Town or Twp.
Rimer Mutual -----	45	2,300	Rimer
Delphos Home Telephone -----	10	310	Jennings Tp.
Elida Mutual -----	10	410	Jen. & Sugar Cr.
Vaughnsville -----	58	2,630	Sugar Creek Tp.
Rushmore Mutual -----	13	800	Rushmore
Leipsic Farmers Mutual -----	25	7,500	Leipsic Tp.
Bluffton -----	36	1,440	Riley Tp.
New Bavaria Farmers Mutual -----	16	370	Liberty & Palmer
Deshler Farmers Mutual -----	6	150	Van Buren
Gilboa Farmers Mutual -----	45	3,400	Blanchard
Bluffton Farmers Mutual -----	16	540	Riley
Cloverdale -----	19	3,190	Cloverdale
Kalida Mutual -----	44	5,720	Kalida
Ottoville Telephone Company -----	2	1,800	Ottoville
Citizens Exchange Telephone -----	1	80	Liberty
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	10	3,340	Belmore
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	57	2,100	North Creek
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	11	3,000	Dupont
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Total -----	4,111	\$184,120	

CHAPTER VIII.

CHURCHES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

COLUMBUS GROVE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A Methodist class was organized two miles south of Columbus Grove, at the home of Philip Hooper, Sr., in October, 1839. His house continued to be a preaching place until 1853, when services were held in a school house, later a public hall, and in the United Brethren and Presbyterian churches in the town of Columbus Grove until 1860. Then a lot was given by Father Hooper and during the pastorates of Philip Lemasters, Harrison Maltbie and J. C. Clemons, a frame church was built. The congregation continued to worship in this building until 1891, when the present brick church was erected, under the pastorate of the Rev. Alexander Harmount.

Until 1868 Columbus Grove was an appointment with the St. John, Elida and Ottawa societies, but at that date it was made a separate charge. It so remained until 1903, when it was again made a station.

The first class was organized under the joint pastorate of Elmer Day and Peter Hollopeter. The following persons were members of the class and, therefore, charter members of the Columbus Grove church, namely: Philip and Rachel Hooper, their children, Mary, Julia, Rachel, John and Elmira; George and Mary Stevenson and their children, Mary, Enoch and Rachel; Adam and Loruma Van Meter, and Mrs. B. Kliver.

The records of the pastors from 1839 to 1860 is not complete, but among the preachers of that period were Jacob Albright, John Kellam, Messrs. Hookbrick and DeLisle. Since 1860 those who have served the charge are: G. O. McPherson, Adam C. Barnes, B. B. Powell, William Deal, Josiah F. Crooks, Philip Lemasters, Harrison Maltbie, J. C. Clemons, B. J. Hoadley, George Matthews, W. H. Scoles, Reuben Rauch, John M. Mills, Peter Biggs, L. O. Cook, A. Harmount, N. B. C. Love, D. F. Helms, William Hook, Jacob Baumgardner, M. C. Howey, W. J. Green, J. W. Gibson, Daniel Carter and the present pastor, C. M. Monosmith.

From a small beginning, seventy-six years ago, this church has grown until it now has a membership of nearly three hundred. A subscription has

been raised for a church building and the work on this structure will soon begin.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT LEIPSIC.

The Leipsic Methodist Episcopal church, one of the strong and aggressive churches in the old Central Ohio conference, was organized about the year 1870. Most of the members of the newly organized class came from the Methodist church of West Leipsic.

For nearly fifteen years the faithful men and women of this church worshipped in the school house and in the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches of the town. For a number of years this church was a part of the Ottawa circuit, and later was attached to the Gilboa circuit. In 1884, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. S. G. Reeder, the contract was let for a new church by the board of trustees, W. W. Edwards, J. H. Edwards, S. B. Webber, Lorenzo Fulk and W. Galogby, the contract price being three thousand, five hundred and sixty-five dollars. This was completed and dedicated in 1885, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. R. Rushbridge.

The society prospered and grew so rapidly that in ten short years a larger and more commodious building was needed, and in 1895 the congregation was led in a new church enterprise by the pastor, Rev. A. A. Thomas. In 1896 the present beautiful church, with a seating capacity of nearly one thousand two hundred, was dedicated, at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: Jason Young, O. E. Palmer, J. F. Davies, James Long, Jeremiah McCane, Rev. Mr. Maltbie, J. C. Miller, R. M. Culver, W. E. Seuman, Rev. Mr. Reeder, J. R. Rushbridge, George Matthews, A. A. Thomas, George B. Wiltsie, Daniel Carter, W. J. Hagerman, Jacob Baumgardner, Edwin L. Davis and C. W. Barnes, the present pastor.

The Leipsic church has grown from a small class until now, at the age of forty-five years, it has a membership of over three hundred and fifty. It has been represented in the general conference three times, once by John Edwards and twice by Mrs. Florence D. Richards. It is characterized by its large missionary and educational contributions and for its benevolent spirit.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT GILBOA.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Gilboa was organized in 1833, with the following charter members: Moses Williams and wife, Sarah Graves, Lou-

isa Gensinger, H. W. Montgomery and Samuel McDonald. It was connected with the McComb circuit at first, but was later changed to the Leipsic circuit, and afterwards it became the head of the Gilboa circuit, which at first embraced Pleasant Chapel, Shawtown and Pandora. In 1911 Gilboa was made a station, with the Rev. E. H. Snow as pastor. The ministers who have served the church are: Eli Myers, S. R. Colgan, J. W. Shultz, William J. Green, E. S. Keeler, J. B. Gottschall, J. H. Carter, Samuel Given, L. B. Smith, M. J. Nash, J. W. Miller, E. H. Snow and C. E. Bowley.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The Methodist Episcopal congregation at Continental was organized in 1895. The adherents of this faith at Continental had desired a meeting place of their own for some time but were not able to get the proposition started. The church building was constructed at a cost of three thousand dollars. This is a very pretty frame church structure. The members have also constructed a parsonage, at a cost of one thousand dollars.

The church is in a very prosperous condition at the present time, with a total membership of one hundred and forty. Rev. J. D. Parker is the present minister and through his efforts is largely due the present good standing of the church in this community.

NORTH CREEK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Rev. J. D. Parker also serves the Methodist church at North Creek. The church building at this place consists of a frame structure, which was erected at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. The membership at present numbers twenty. Although this church congregation is smaller than some of its sister congregations, it is on a firm basis and the membership is increasing.

CLOVERDALE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Cloverdale Methodist Episcopal church has a congregation at present of twenty-seven members. The present frame church building was erected at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. Rev. J. D. Parker serves this congregation from Continental.

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OTTAWA.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Ottawa was organized in 1855, with Rev. John A. Shannon as pastor. The first church building was a brick structure, built in 1858, the brick for the building being made by M. Gallaway. The Ottawa society was organized as a station in 1860 by the Rev. L. C. Webster, who was presiding elder. Rev. C. W. Miller was pastor in charge. About ten years ago plans were talked of for the erection of a new church building and the matter agitated until, on August 8, 1899, the corner stone of the new edifice was laid. On July 8, 1900, the new church was dedicated to the service of Almighty God by Bishop David H. Moore.

The names of the pastors from 1860 are as follows: 1860-70, G. W. Miller; 1870-71, H. M. Shaffer and John Wilson; 1871-73, Jason Young; 1873-74, H. S. Bradley and S. L. Beiler; 1874-76, J. W. Miller; 1876-78, H. E. Pilcher; 1878-79, Albert Foster; 1879-80, Joseph Ayers; 1880-83, Caleb Hill; 1883-86, R. R. Bryan; 1886-88, Joseph Ayers; 1888-93, William S. Philpott; 1893, Caleb Hill; 1893-96, A. S. Watkins; 1896-98, J. Williams; 1898-1901, C. B. Holding; 1902-03, Charles W. Sullivan; 1908, J. W. Donnan; 1909, C. B. Cuppett; 1910, S. Baumgardner; 1912, F. E. Higbie; 1914, E. J. Webster; 1915, James William Gibson.

DUPONT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The congregation of the Methodist Episcopal church at Dupont is also served as a charge from Continental. Rev. J. D. Parker serves this church along with the congregations at Cloverdale, North Creek, and also Continental, as was previously mentioned. This church has a membership of fifty-eight active workers. The present frame building was erected at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars.

Although the town of Dupont is not as prosperous and flourishing as it has been, still this little church has held together its band of followers and the prosperity which the congregation experiences is fully merited by their untiring efforts and also the efforts of the minister.

KALIDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The beginning of Presbyterianism in Kalida dates back about seventy years, the first organization appearing in 1845. At that time Oliver Tolbert, Sr., Joseph Tingle, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Coulter,

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crawford, Dr. Robert Thrift and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Jane Hughes and Isaac and Robert McCracken met and formally organized a Presbyterian church at Kalida. They met in private homes and in the old court house until a frame building for church purposes was erected in 1852. The building erected in 1852 is still standing and has the honor of being the oldest church building now standing within the limits of Putnam county. The timbers are of oak and walnut and the building bids fair to stand for many years to come. The dedicatory services, in 1852, were in charge of the Rev. Thomas Elcock. The ministers from the beginning down to the present time are as follows: Revs. Elcock, Brice, Emerson, Bedem, Cooper, Fuller, Echolls, Hyatt, McGee, Adams and Williams. The church now enrolls about eighty members and is one of the most flourishing Presbyterian churches in the county. A Sabbath school is maintained, under the superintendency of A. T. Skinner. The president of the Christian Endeavor is K. Murray.

LEIPSIK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The history of the first Presbyterian church in Leipsic dates back to about 1873. Although this church was organized some years prior to this time, the session records were burned and there is no mention of its early history except in the report of Lima presbytery in 1873, but it was probably organized by the Maumee presbytery. The following are charter members and early members of the church: Mrs. Elizabeth Foltz, Solomon Young and wife, Charles McDonald and wife, Walter Day and wife, John Sturgeon and wife, William Barton and wife, John Askam and wife and James R. Lafferty and wife.

The present brick church building was erected in 1873 at a cost of three thousand dollars, on a centrally located lot near the present high school building. It is modern and thoroughly equipped in every respect, with steam heat, electric lights and a new piano, which has recently been purchased for the use of the church and Sunday school.

The following ministers have served the church: Rev. Perry C. Baldwin; Rev. Winfield Hill, 1878-79; Rev. D. W. Cooper, 1880-83; Rev. I. N. Thomas, 1886-87; Rev. Adam Schafer, 1891-92; Rev. J. L. Grim, 1894-98; Rev. David Demster, 1899-1900; Rev. Harry C. Cunningham, 1901-02; Rev. W. H. Hyatt, 1905-08; Rev. A. S. Kerr, 1910-11. Rev. E. Layport, D. D., the present minister, began his work on October 1, 1911.

The church saw the greatest years of its prosperity under the lead-

ership of Rev. David Demster and Rev. Harry C. Cunningham. During their pastorate the church membership numbered one hundred and forty. The present membership of the church is sixty-five. The church has maintained a very prosperous Sunday school throughout its entire existence and at present Charles Henry is at the helm. He is ably assisted by a faithful and competent corps of officers and teachers. The church has been weakened at times by removals and deaths, yet it has always maintained its harmonious and prosperous standing in the village. Some of the leading families of Leipsic have been enrolled under its banners and the church at present is in a prosperous condition and is doing a splendid work with an ever-increasing membership. The session is composed of Thomas H. Rower, H. F. Wendell, Orville Young, Charles Henry, Herman Montouth, Hartley McClung and James McDonald.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove bears the distinction of being the oldest congregation of Presbyterians in Putnam county. The first church was organized on September 9, 1836, with the following charter members: Samuel McComb, Anna McComb, Adam Turner, Joseph Belford, Eleanor Belford, Joseph Nichols, Hannah Nichols, Martha Nichols, William McComb, Elizabeth McComb, Job Combs, Jane Combs, Martha Combs and Jane Pier.

A log church building was constructed in order that this loyal band of fifteen advocates of Presbyterianism could have a place in which to worship. The congregation soon began to grow and flourish, as more settlers came into the county and the country became more prosperous. The log structure was soon found to be inadequate to accommodate the ever-increasing workers, and on January 28, 1851, the contract was let for a new frame building. This was dedicated on December 28, 1851, under the pastorate of Rev. William K. Bryce. The cornerstone for the present beautiful structure was laid on November 3, 1901. This building was dedicated on October 5, 1902, under the pastorate of Rev. S. Delmar Conger, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. The parsonage was purchased in 1884, under the pastorate of Rev. Edward Laupport, at a cost of three thousand dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: William McCookin, exact date unknown; James H. Anderson, September 1, 1840-April 14, 1843; William K. Bryce, February, 1840-September, 1868; Francis Lynn, August,

1870-August, 1872; J. B. Strain, January, 1873-January, 1876; David Kingery, October 1, 1876-November 10, 1878; J. Emory Fisher, April 1, 1879-April 1, 1882; R. H. McDonald, May 1, 1883-May 1, 1884; Edward Layport, June 1, 1884-May, 1889; A. M. Chapin, October 1, 1889-October 1, 1891; Thomas F. Boyd, January 1, 1892-April 1, 1894; George McKay, October 1, 1894-April 1, 1898; James K. Argo, October 23, 1898-November 1, 1899; S. Delmar Conger, January 1, 1900-January 1, 1909; Ralph W. Kohr, April 1, 1909, to the present time. Revs. McGookin, Anderson, Brice, Lynn, Strain, Kingery, Fisher, McDonald, McKay and Argo have served the church as stated supply. The other ministers who have served the congregation were regular pastors.

This congregation is one of the largest in the county and has had a steady growth from the time it was founded. The resident membership numbers two hundred and fifty-five at the present time, with out-of-town members three hundred and fifteen.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Congregational church of Vaughnsville, Riley township, was organized in 1889. This church is an offspring of the Gomer Congregational church of Allen county and bears the distinction of being the only Congregational church in Putnam county. Dr. John Gethin Thomas was the founder of this church and under his leadership the beautiful church building was erected, at a cost of five thousand dollars. This church building still serves the congregation and is in excellent condition.

The ministers who followed Reverend Thomas have been as follows: D. A. Evans, exact date unknown; John G. Evans, 1906-1912; John Morgan Williams, 1912 to February 13, 1915; and the present pastor, David William Fletcher, who began his duty in March, 1915.

The church parsonage has but lately been remodeled and is now valued at three thousand dollars. It is a very pretty and commodious structure in which to house the minister. The growth of this church has been steady and no divisions or dissensions have ever arisen in its ranks of workers. There are at present one hundred and forty-two members enrolled under its banner.

The Sunday school, under the direction of Lloyd Roberts, is very active and has an attendance of one hundred and twenty-eight. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has an enrollment of forty members

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The United Brethren church of Continental, Ohio, was organized in 1888 with twenty-four charter members, comprising thirteen families in Continental. The following ministers have served the church: W. J. Eastbrook, R. A. Bales, F. E. Fitzwater, A. F. Light, G. B. Fisher, F. V. Newell, E. E. Williams, C. W. Jamison, M. F. Scouten, J. G. Turner, S. S. Wagner, R. W. Wilkis, Bittner, R. W. Kester, G. E. Burrell, Cora Tester and the present incumbent, O. M. Martin, who is finishing his third year. The present church building was erected under the pastorate of Rev. A. F. Light, at a cost of three thousand dollars. Since that time the congregation has built a parsonage, at a cost of one thousand six hundred dollars. The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty. The church has the following auxiliaries: Sunday school, Young People's Christian Endeavor, Woman's Missionary Association and Ladies' Aid Society.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, WISTERMAN.

The Wisterman United Brethren church was organized in this strong community with thirty-five charter members. The congregation began to grow and flourish and about the year 1884 a frame church building was erected, at a cost of six hundred or seven hundred dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: Swaney Newell, Frank F. Fitzwater, Williams, Jamison, Wagoner, Kenneth, Miss Cora Tester and the minister, O. M. Martin, who serves the church from Continental. The church has an active Sunday school and also a Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, both of which are well patronized by the younger members of the church. The congregation numbers eighteen.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The congregation of St. John's United Brethren at Columbus Grove was formally organized in 1858, by Rev. Daniel Glancy. The church was organized with seven charter members, as follows: Rev. Daniel Glancy and wife, Amanda Fruehey, Lucy Monntz, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy, Joseph Billhamer. The church was christened St. John's United Brethern in Christ. The first church building, which was erected in 1860, served as a place of worship until 1878, when the present beautiful brick structure was erected, at a cost of ten thousand dollars. A parsonage was erected in 1897, at a cost of one

thousand dollars; in the spring of 1914 the parsonage was remodeled at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars, and now provides the minister with very pretty and commodious quarters.

The ministers who have served the church are as follows: Daniel Glancy, Miller, Fessies, Chester Briggs, E. B. Maurer, Kemer, T. J. Harbaugh, Eastman, Cyrus Bevington, S. H. Radabaugh, H. Shaffer, J. P. Lea, John Hipple, G. L. Bender, John Sergeant, U. S. Long, J. O. Rhodes, T. D. Ingel, B. F. Fritz, W. E. Davis, C. J. Roberts, O. F. Langhbaum, M. E. Gibson, C. N. Crabb, and the Rev. C. M. Eberly, the present pastor, who took charge of the congregation on October 1, 1913.

The growth of this church has been marked by its prosperity and rapid growth and at present four hundred members are enrolled under its banners. The church has a Woman's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid Society and the Otterlin Guild, as auxiliaries of the church. All of these church societies are in a good working condition. The church is thoroughly organized and doing a good active work in all of the different departments.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

The United Brethren church of Cascade, was organized in 1885, with eight charter members. The early records of the church have been destroyed and a complete history of the society is not possible. Rev. W. Davis served this charge as the first pastor. A frame church building was erected, at a cost of eight hundred dollars, this being made possible by the donations of the members. It was indeed a monumental task in those days to secure proper financial co-operation even in so worthy a movement. The original membership numbered eight families and this was all there was to draw on to secure the funds for the erection of the first church. But, with a sublime self-sacrifice, they measured up to the situation and finally enough money was mustered together and soon the first United Brethren church at Cascade became a reality. The present membership embraces twenty-five souls and these are ministered to by the present pastor, F. Fittswater.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH, VAUGHNSVILLE.

The Christian church in Vaughnsville was organized on June 16, 1850, by Rev. Michael Martz, with seven charter members. The first services were held in a log school house near Vaughnsville. After a short time a

church building was erected in the village. The service of the pioneer pastors and their successors is of sacred memory to the settlers of this locality.

Rev. Michael Martz's pastorate extended over a period of twenty-one years, from June 16, 1850, to September 30, 1871. The church at that time had preaching services one Sunday each month. In 1870 began the services of Rev. William Mormon, who became the regular pastor and continued as such until September 30, 1878. The following pastors have served since that time, most of them beginning their labors in October and concluding their services in September, in accordance with the conference pastoral year: Daniel Lepley, 1878-79; G. B. Garner, 1879-80; Rev. Lepley and Rev. Rimer, alternating, 1880-81; G. B. Garner, 1881-82; H. H. Holverstott, 1882-86; C. J. Hance, 1886-87; Daniel Lobaugh, 1887-89; Revs. Holverstott and Garner, alternating, 1889-90; A. Noffsinger, 1890-93; J. N. Steffanni, 1893-95; G. W. Foltz, 1895-00; O. E. McCleary, 1900-02; A. L. West, 1902-04; G. B. Garner, 1904-06; Ford Bolton, 1906-07; F. E. Rockwell, 1908-10; J. M. Miller, 1910-13; Otto Halfaker, 1913-14, and the present pastor, Sanford Beougher.

There have been more than eight hundred names recorded in the roll book of the church since its organization, sixty-five years ago, and at present there are two hundred and seven active members. Prayer meetings, a Sunday school, Christian Endeavor Society, teachers' training and mission study classes, together with other societies, have assisted in the progress and development of the church.

The present church building was dedicated in 1873. Since that time it has been remodeled and enlarged. Many improvements have been made, including a new church parsonage. Throughout its history the church has been the recipient of divine blessings and the future successes of the church are assured.

ANTIOCH CHURCH.

The Antioch church is located in section 12, Monterey township. It was organized on June 20, 1882, with fourteen charter members. The members of this church built the present frame church building in the fall of that year, at a cost of six hundred and twenty-five dollars. Although this band of workers was not large, this was easily overcome by their liberality and desire for a place of worship.

The first pastor to minister to their spiritual needs was S. E. Smith. The church has prospered and at present has a membership of forty-three.

The present minister is A. W. Sparks. The young people of this congregation are also active in the Sunday school work and Young People's Society.

OTTAWA RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Ottawa River Christian church was organized in 1860. Through the earnest efforts of W. F. McLane, Elder Enos Foster held a series of meetings at the home of Mr. McLane and, on June 20 of the following year, Rev. Enos Foster and Rev. D. B. Wilson organized a church, to be called the Ottawa River Christian church; thus, the real organization did not occur until 1861. The charter members were: W. F. McLane, Elizabeth McLane, Martha Clevenger, Ruth Chandler, Susanah Clevenger, Phoebe A. Guffy, Anna Evans and Jane McKinley.

A number of additions were recorded in February of the following year and Elder Foster was retained as the church pastor. In 1862, with the aid of the citizens in the neighborhood, a neat little house of worship was erected on a lot donated by John Guffy, on the banks of the Ottawa river. This building was completed and dedicated to the services of God, November 30, 1862, by Elders Harvey and Martz. On December 13, of the same year, church officers were elected. Jesse C. Darbyshire was elected to the office of deacon and served in that capacity until his death, August 14, 1894.

In 1863 Elder Martz was chose as minister and served the church for fourteen years. On May 4, 1867, Henry Funk was chosen as assistant deacon and held that office until his death, in 1879. The following ministers have served the church since Elder Martz ceased his labors, up to the year 1895: W. C. Rimer, John Gelispie, Lewis Gander, G. B. Garner and A. Noffsinger.

The present beautiful church was erected in 1879 and will accomodate four hundred and fifty persons. The membership of the church numbers over two hundred and fifty souls.

MT. ZION CHURCH, MONROE TOWNSHIP.

The Mt. Zion church was organized in 1875 with twelve charter members. This was the first church organized in this township, outside of the town churches of Continental.

The first building, which is still serving the congregation as a place of worship, was completed in 1874. It will be seen that the church building was constructed and a place of worship afforded and later the congregation

was formally organized. This building was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars and is in a good state of preservation at the present time.

Rev. Gelispie served the congregation as the first regular minister. The present incumbent, Rev. C. J. Hance, serves the church as a charge from Spencerville.

This church is situated in the northwestern part of Putnam county and has drawn its members from the country around this section. The present membership numbers forty-five. The church supports a well-attended Sunday school.

LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The Lutheran church at Continental was organized on August 2, 1896, by Rev. Frank C. Longaker. The total membership is the beginning numbered only eighteen.

The corner stone for a church building was laid in August, 1897, and in November of the same year the building was completed. This was a brick structure, erected at a cost of two thousand six hundred dollars. It is rather remarkable to note that this little band of eighteen followers were permanently located in a year after they were organized.

The ministers who have served this congregation are Rev. Frank C. Longaker, the founder of the congregation and under whose charge the church building was erected; Rev. Schroeder, date not known definitely; Rev. J. N. Barrett, June, 1901-June, 1906; Rev. J. Walter Bressler, June, 1908-February, 1910; Rev. G. M. Gran, June, 1910-October, 1914; Rev. Richard Rassmussen, May, 1915.

The church has passed through many years of prosperous growth and at present has a membership of forty-five. The Ladies' Aid Society is a strong auxiliary to the church.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (DUNKARD), BLANCHARD.

It is a lamentable fact that the early records of Blanchard have never been recorded or have been very carelessly destroyed. This makes the church history a matter of memory and not altogether authentic in some of the dates. In 1840 the first Dunkard (Brethren) church was located at what is now the Blanchard church, at a point five miles southeast of the town of Continental.

One of the first Dunkard settlers seems to have been a man whose name was Prowant. Mr. Prowant was the father of five sons, four of whom later

became active ministers in the Dunkard faith. Three of these sons spent their entire lives in the Blanchard church.

Meetings were held in the homes of brethren and were conducted by ministers from Allen county until the year 1850. In that year, John Prowant was elected to the ministry of that church, and this must be about the date that the Blanchard church was organized. After the church organization the services were held in school houses and the homes of members until 1880, when the church building, which is located one-half mile west of DuPont, was erected and dedicated. It is a neat, plain house of worship and was erected at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. The following is a list of ministers who have been elected to the ministry from Blanchard church membership: John Prowant, first elder or bishop; Henry Prowant, William Prowant and Daniel Prowant, all of whom are deceased; Amos Budd, Harry Fuller, D. P. Weller and L. H. Prowant. Reverends Fuller, Weller, Prowant and Prowant are still actively engaged in the labors of the Blanchard church, with Elder D. P. Weller as overseer of the work.

Between the years 1886-90 the Sunday school was organized and is now in a prosperous condition, with an attendance which rivals any in the county, under the superintendency of Floyd Clevenger. Many members have been lost by emigration. The membership at present numbers one hundred and fifty souls.

TOWNSHIP CHURCHES.

The complete history of quite a number of the township churches of Putnam county is impossible to get. This is due to the fact that there have been many changes. Churches have been organized and lots purchased, and later some of these churches have been disbanded, to unite with other congregations. In consequence of these changes, the records of the churches were, in many instances, lost or destroyed.

By running the deed records of the county, the denomination of many of these churches was ascertained, but other information concerning the church was not obtainable. A list of these follows, which proves rather interesting:

In Liberty township, section 16, a lot was purchased, April 3, 1888, for two hundred dollars. The Evangelical church trustees transacted this business, but other early history of this church was not available.

In Liberty township, section 11, a lot was purchased, December 28, 1883, by the trustees of the Bethel church for a consideration of five dollars.

In Sugar Creek township, section 8, there are two deed records for

church property. The trustees of the Sugar Creek Baptist church purchased a lot for church purposes, April 21, 1851; also, the trustees of the Predestinarian faith purchased a lot. On April 19, 1884, the trustees of the Baptist church sold their lot and in the same year leased it of the new owner for church purposes.

In Sugar Creek township, section 27, there are three records of land conveyance to trustees of different churches for purposes of worship. These are the Welsh Methodist Episcopal church, the Welsh Congregational and the Salem Congregational.

In Jennings township, section 2, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased property for one thousand five hundred dollars. This was on February 23, 1892. In section 26, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church purchased a lot for church purposes, May 22, 1877.

In Van Buren township, section 27, the trustees of the Evangelical church purchased a lot for the consideration of one dollar, on May 18, 1875.

The church lot for the Riley Creek Methodist Protestant church, section 36, Ottawa township, was purchased by the trustees, October 5, 1855, for one dollar. This was one of the oldest churches in the county.

In Greensburg township, section 10, a conveyance was made on January 13, 1896, to the trustees of the Mennonite church for the consideration of one hundred dollars.

In Blanchard township, section 13, the trustees of the Church of God purchased a lot for one dollar, May 7, 1887. A rather interesting conveyance is noted in Blanchard township, section 8. On October 25, 1850, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased a lot for a consideration of one dollar. On April 13, 1875, the trustees of this denomination sold the lot to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In Perry township, section 8, a conveyance was made to the trustees of the German Baptist church, on February 5, 1887, for the consideration of thirty dollars.

In section 11, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased a lot for one dollar, July 22, 1886. Another conveyance in this same section was that of the Methodist Episcopal church trustees, March 14, 1874. On October 1, 1899, they transferred this lot to the trustees of the United Brethren church, who used it for church purposes for a short time and then sold it to the township to be used for a township house.

In Riley township, section 11, a conveyance was made to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, June 27, 1863. On May 12, 1900, the Citizens Society of Riley township, section 3, purchased a lot to be used for

church purposes. On November 7, of the following year, they transferred their deed to this lot to the trustees of the United Brethren church. On June 15, 1888, the trustees of the Mennonite church purchased a lot in Riley township, section 16, for fifty dollars and erected their beautiful church building. The society is very active at the present time.

On September 21, 1868, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased a lot in Pleasant township, section 22, to be used for church purposes.

On June 29, 1864, the trustees of the United Brethren church of Jackson township, section 11, purchased a lot on which to build a church.

On October 5, 1880, the trustees of the Christian church purchased a lot for church purposes in Monterey township, section 12. In this same section the trustees of the Antioch church purchased a lot, August 16, 1904. Some of these churches are still active, others are served by a supply minister and a few have been disbanded entirely.

SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH, OTTAWA

In January, 1861, Matthias Muller, a resident of Ottawa, donated one acre of land as a site for a church. Although the Catholics residing at Ottawa were identified with the parish of St. John's church at Glandorf, they had been petitioning for permission to build a church of their own. This request was granted by Bishop Rappe in 1868 and the Rev. A. Reichert, pastor of Glandorf, was commissioned to solicit subscriptions for that object. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on June 14, 1868, but the building was not completed until 1872. It was dedicated on August 15, of that year, by Bishop Gilmour and placed under the patronage of the apostles, SS. Peter and Paul. It is a handsome brick structure, fifty by one hundred and thirty feet, and the building alone cost approximately eighteen thousand dollars. The present fine organ was purchased in 1882, at a cost of one thousand eight hundred dollars. The children of the parish attended the Catholic district schools until 1887, when a brick school and residence for the teachers was erected, at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars. This is conducted by Sanguinist Sisters. The present spacious brick pastoral residence was built in 1892, under the pastorate of Father Dick, at a cost of nearly three thousand dollars.

The following Sanguinist Fathers have had charge of the parish: Revs. A. Reichert and J. Marty, 1868-73; Rev. F. Schalk, 1873-76; Rev. C. Roessner, 1876-78; Rev. R. Abbrederis, 1878-83; Rev. B. Boebner, 1883-91; Rev. A. Dick, 1891-97; Rev. Bernard Russ, 1897-1900 (now deceased); Rev. A.



REV. MICHAEL MULLER.

Dentinger, 1900 to the present time. The church property is in excellent condition and free from debt. The congregation is composed chiefly of Germans, or their descendants.

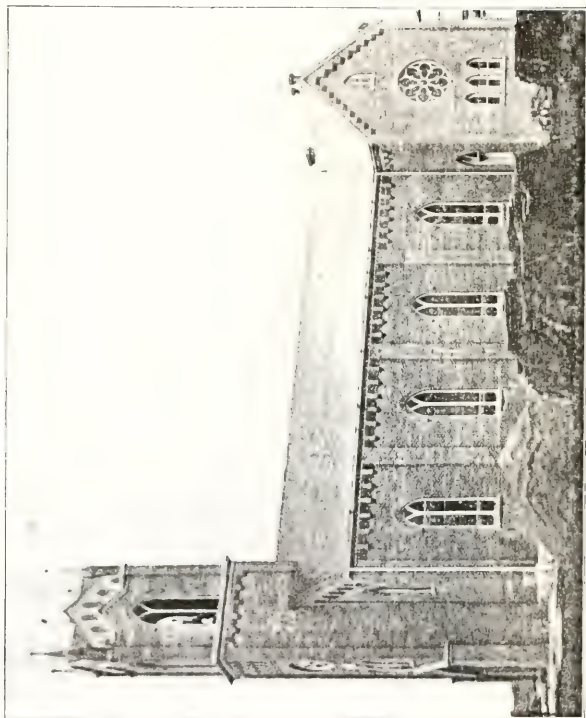
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, OTTOVILLE.

Through the untiring efforts and self-sacrificing generosity of Father John Otto Bredeick, the spiritual wants of the few early settlers of Ottoville were ministered to faithfully until his death in 1858. In 1850 Father Bredeick purchased forty acres of land and laid it out in town lots. The best were set aside for church purposes and the rest were sold, setting aside the proceeds of their sale for the benefit of the church. In 1860 Rev. F. Westerkholtz, who attended Ottoville from Delphos, took up this work left off by Father Bredeick and in the fall of the same year the foundation for a new church was blessed. This was a frame structure, forty by eighty feet, and was dedicated in the spring of 1861. It was assigned to Rev. J. J. Goebels, pastor of the Ft. Jennings church, who had charge of it until 1864. Rev. A. J. Abel, the first resident pastor of Ottoville, had charge of it until July, 1865, from which time until June, 1866, it was attended from Ft. Jennings. The following served as resident pastors: 1866-68, Rev. H. D. Best; Rev. Michael Muller, to January 27, 1900; Rev. H. Wichmann, to June, 1900; Rev. J. B. Mertes, the present pastor, who has the distinction of being the only irremovable priest in the county. The rich land around Ottoville was a great inducement to many Catholic German farmers to become its owners, with the result that the parish grew very rapidly. Father Muller, seeing the increase in wealth and size of his charge, realized that a larger and more ample church was necessary, and with this object in view, he started a subscription for the erection of a church, his call on their generosity being met with a ready response. The plans for a church of pure Gothic design were submitted and approved by Bishop Gilmour. The cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1885, by the Very Rev. Administrator Boff, and in the summer of 1888 it was completed. It was dedicated on September 23, 1888. The church is seventy-eight feet wide by one hundred and seventy feet long, and ninety feet in the transept, with two towers one hundred and eighty feet tall. Much taste is shown in the painting and frescoing of the pillars and groined ceiling; in fact, the whole presents a beautiful and striking appearance. It was finished at a cost of sixty thousand dollars. In 1860 a steam plant was installed in the church, at a cost of two thousand one hundred dollars. In 1892 a set of stations was placed in position, at a

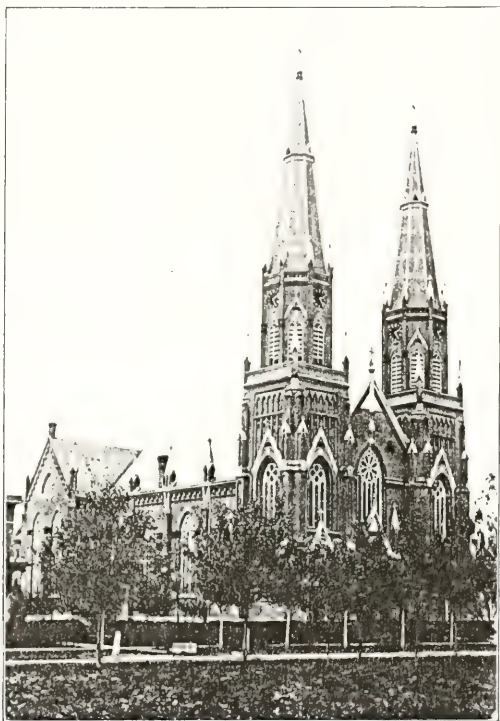
cost of two thousand two hundred dollars. In 1868 the present splendid altar was placed in the church, at a cost of three thousand dollars. The church is now fully equipped and it is needless to say that its furnishings are the best. In 1901 a pastoral residence was built; this is of brick and highly in keeping with the adjacent church. In 1898 an organ was installed at a cost of four thousand dollars.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LEIPSIC.

The history of the congregation at Leipsic dates back to about 1873, when a few Catholics began to settle here and were attended by Rev. Henry Kaempker, of New Cleveland, from 1874-78. The first church, a small frame structure, twenty-five by forty-five feet, was erected, under the direction of Rev. Kaempker, in 1876, at a cost of five hundred dollars. Rev. John Bertemes served Leipsic, from New Cleveland, as a mission from January, 1889, until February, 1891, when he was appointed first resident pastor. From 1878 to 1889 the congregation was attended by Revs. Joseph Rosenberg and Joseph Eyler. During Rev. Rosenberg's administration, two lots were purchased, in May, 1887, to serve as a site for the prospective pastoral residence and school. The pastoral residence was built during the time of Rev. Eyler, at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. The foundation of the large frame church was blessed on August 30, 1891, by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. F. M. Boff, and this structure was completed in 1892, under the pastorate of Rev. Bertemes. It was dedicated on May 14, 1893, by Bishop Horstmann. This church is forty-five feet wide, fifty-seven feet in the transept and one hundred and two feet long; the interior height is thirty-four feet and the spire is one hundred and twenty-five feet high. It has a seating capacity of six hundred when the large gallery is used, and was erected at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars. Father Bertemes organized the first parochial school, in October, 1890, and it was in charge of lay teachers until May 1, 1899, when the building was destroyed by fire. During the summer of the same year a new four-room brick building was constructed, at a cost of five thousand dollars. Three teachers are in charge of the school, which has an attendance of one hundred and five pupils. The ministers who have served the congregation since 1900 are: Rev. John Baumgartner, Rev. Stephen Weber, Rev. Carl Alter, Rev. Leon Plumanns, and the present pastor, Rev. John B. Wendling.



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, KALDA



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OTTOVILLE.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, KALIDA.

The Catholics at Kalida were identified with St. John's parish at Glandorf, but as early as 1861 they were desirous of having a church of their own. In the year 1861 they put their desires in the form of a request, and the Rev. Joseph J. Goebbels, pastor of the Ft. Jennings congregation, made the preliminary arrangements for its erection. A lot was purchased and active work was begun on the building, but destiny decreed that the workers' desires should not be granted, at least at that time, for in the same year the county seat of Putnam county was transferred from Kalida to Ottawa. This caused a great disturbance in the business interests of Kalida and quite a few of the Catholics removed to other places. In consequence of this, the unfinished structure was abandoned. Sixteen years elapsed before anything more was done towards the erection of a new church. But, in the meantime, many Catholics had settled in and near Kalida, so that by 1877 they numbered seventeen families. In 1877, after they bought and paid for a fine lot in September of the previous year, they petitioned the Rev. Michael Muller, pastor of the Ottoville church, to aid them in erecting the much-desired church, for which they also obtained Bishop Gilmour's consent. A subscription to the amount of four thousand dollars was raised by Father Muller, after which active work was begun on the building, a brick edifice, forty-two by sixty-five feet. Its cornerstone was laid on June 16, 1878, and the church was dedicated on December 1st of the same year, to St. Michael. The congregation was attended, alternately, from Ottoville and Ft. Jennings, on every second Sunday, until January, 1888, when the mission was placed in charge of the Sanguinist Fathers, at Glandorf. The first was Rev. Rochus Schuly, who was succeeded, in June, 1894, by the Rev. Chrysostom Hummer, who had the church greatly enlarged in 1895. Its width at present in the transept is fifty-six feet, and its length is one hundred and thirteen feet; the present graceful spire was also built during Father Hummer's regime. About seven thousand dollars was expended on the enlargement of the church, the frescoing and other improvements. The renovated and practically new church was dedicated on May 17, 1896, by Bishop Horstmann. In September of the same year Father Hummer was succeeded by Rev. Valentine Schirack, and, being the first resident pastor of the congregation, Rev. Schirack resided at Kalida from May, 1900, until 1903, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. M. Muehe. Father Schirack succeeded in paying off the entire church debt, besides procuring two church

bells, at a cost of one thousand dollars, and in the spring of the following year, 1899, he raised a subscription of four thousand dollars for a pastoral residence, which was completed in May, 1900, at a cost of five thousand dollars. The children attended the so-called Catholic "District Schools" until recently, when a parochial school building, a two-story brick structure, was constructed at a cost of ten thousand dollars. Four Sisters of Divine Providence serve the school, which has an enrollment of one hundred and seventy children. The present parish numbers nine hundred and forty-five souls. The total value of the entire church property is approximately sixty thousand dollars.

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, MILLER CITY.

The present flourishing parish of Miller City was organized in 1886 by the Rev. Joseph Rosenberg, then pastor of the New Cleveland church. Nichols Noirot presented two lots for the church site and in 1887 active work was begun on a building by Father Rosenberg, which was completed in the following year under the direction of Rev. Joseph Eyler, at a cost of about two thousand dollars. St. John's parish, of Glandorf, donated four hundred dollars to the mission of Miller City and also gave the pews which were formerly used in their church. The church was dedicated on August 26, 1888, by Mgr. F. M. Boff, V. G., and placed under the patronage of St. Nicholas.

Before the appointment of the first resident pastor, Rev. Charles Wagner, in July, 1899, it was attended as a mission from New Cleveland, and later from Leipsic. During the time Rev. J. Bertemes attended Miller City from Leipsic (1889-99), he purchased two acres of land to be used as a cemetery. This was blessed on June 11, 1893, and, on November 30, 1896, he purchased three lots as a site for a school and pastoral residence. The present pastoral residence was built in 1899 by Father Wagner. The church was so badly damaged by lightning on September 4, 1898, that preparations were at once made for a new building. The cornerstone for a brick church, fifty-four by one hundred and twenty-four feet, was blessed October 28, 1900, by Bishop Horstmann. It is of Gothic architecture and cost twenty-three thousand dollars. The pastors serving this charge since Father Wagner (1899-1903) are as follows: Rev. Widemer, 1903-1913; Rev. Henry Gerwert, 1913 to the present time. During the pastorate of Father Widemer a parochial residence was built, in 1909, at a cost of five thousand dollars.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, FT. JENNINGS.

The spiritual wants of the early settlers of Ft. Jennings were attended by Father Horstmann, of Glandorf, for many years before the town was laid out, services being held in private houses during that period. In 1838, Rev. Tinker, pastor of the Dayton church, attended the mission of Ft. Jennings and two years later the Catholics and Protestants united and built a log house to serve for church and school purposes. This very unusual arrangement, made with the sanction of Father Horstmann, remained in effect over fourteen years. Rev. Henry Herzog was appointed the first resident pastor in 1840, but remained less than a year. Father Horstmann then took charge of the mission and attended it until his death in February, 1843. His successor at Glandorf, Rev. George Bohne, also attended Ft. Jennings until 1851, when he was appointed resident pastor of the place. Upon his death, September 20, 1860, it was attached to Delphos as a mission and attended by Rev. F. Westerholt until March, 1861, when Rev. Joseph Goebels was appointed resident pastor; he remained until 1864. His successors are the following: Rev. H. E. Hamers, 1864-66; Rev. C. Viere, 1866-67; attended from Ottoville by M. Muller, 1867-70; L. Zumbuhl, 1870-73; C. Darbier, September, 1873, until his death August 23, 1876; J. A. Michenfelder, August 1876, to May, 1879; G. Peter, 1879-81; J. Heidegger, 1881-88; C. Braschler, 1888-99; M. Arnoldi, 1899, to November 5, 1914; the present incumbent, John A. Christ, became pastor of the church on the latter date.

Father Bohne was desirous of a new church as soon as he became resident pastor in 1851, but he did not get the second of his people until a year later, when the foundation of a brick church, forty by sixty feet, was laid. Two years later it was completed at a cost of two thousand dollars and on December 24, 1854, it was dedicated to St. Joseph. Although plain and without any architectural adornment, it served its purpose until the erection of the present beautiful structure. This was begun during the pastorate of Father Heidegger in the fall of 1882, and was dedicated on May 4, 1884, by Bishop Gilmour. It is of Gothic architecture, one hundred and thirty-two feet by fifty-five feet, and the furnishings are all of white oak. It cost about twenty-one thousand dollars. A two-story frame building served as pastoral residence for a number of years. In 1899 the present brick pastoral residence was built at a cost of seven thousand dollars. The congregation at present numbers eight hundred and twenty-seven.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GLANDORF.

The first Catholic place of worship in Putnam county was erected for Father Horstmann in Glandorf and on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1834, he celebrated the first mass in it. It was a small house, built of hewed logs, and served as a residence for Father Horstmann and also as a chapel. By 1836 the little colony of sturdy Germans had increased so that Father Horstmann's chapel would not accommodate them, and this necessitated the building of a new place of worship. The new church, a log structure, twenty-two by forty feet, and covered with split weatherboards, was built and dedicated in 1837. St. John the Baptist was chosen as its patron saint. In the same year a log school house was built and Father Horstmann served as its first teacher. The following year a log pastoral residence was built to replace the one of four years previous. Father Horstmann, whose health had begun to fail, asked Bishop Purcell for an assistant. In 1841 Rev. George Bohne was supplied. Two years later, February 21, 1843, Father Horstmann was called to his reward. Father Bohne soon began the task of erecting a brick church. The corner stone was laid in 1840 and the entire parish seconded Father Bohne in the undertaking. The building was dedicated on the first Sunday in Advent, 1848, and placed under the patronage of St. John the Baptist by Rev. A. Kunkler. The building was fifty by ninety feet and at that time was considered without an equal in northwestern Ohio. Father Bohne resigned a few months before the church was dedicated and was transferred to Ft. Jennings. The Sanguinist Fathers were then placed in charge of the parish and in the fall of the same year established a convent. A list of the Sanguinist Fathers who have had charge of the Glandorf congregation follows: Revs. A. Kunkler, A. Herbstritt, M. A. Meyer, 1848-50; Rev. M. Homburger, 1850-53; Rev. A. Schelbert, 1853-58; Rev. M. A. Kramer, 1858-61; Rev. A. Reichert, 1861-74; Rev. B. Dickmann, 1874-81; Rev. M. Menk, May to October 1881; Rev. F. Nigsch, 1881-97; Rev. T. Wittmer, 1897 to January, 1914; Rev. L. Schupp, since January, 1914.

In 1874, when Father Dickmann took charge of the church at Glandorf, he realized the pressing needs of a new church, as the present building was too small to accommodate the entire parish. In 1875 the foundation was laid and on June 24, 1876, the cornerstone was laid by the Rev. A. Kunkler. Owing to an unforeseen delay, when the completed spire was struck by



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH AND PASTORAL RESIDENCE, FT. JENNINGS.

INTERIOR VIEW, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, CLAMBOURG



lightning, the building was not completed until December, 1878, and was dedicated December 15, by Bishop Gilmour.

The church, of pure Gothic architecture, is built of clear red brick, trimmed with sandstone. It is one hundred and seventy-five feet long and seventy feet wide, the width at transept being eighty-six feet; the spire is two hundred and twenty-five feet high. The interior is very impressive and inspires a feeling of reverence and awe. The richly-carved oak pulpit, which was exhibited at the World's Fair at Philadelphia, cost one thousand four hundred dollars. In 1888 altars, pews, stations and statuary were added, at a cost of five thousand three hundred dollars. In 1897 a town clock and four bells were installed by Father Wittmer. The parochial residence was finished in 1904 at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. Glandorf has an excellent school, and although it is public in name, it is in charge of the church. In 1893 a fine house was built for the combined use of the organist and principal of the school. At present one lay teacher and six Sanguinist Sisters conduct the schools.

Although Glandorf parish has been dismembered three times, nevertheless it has a strong membership of three hundred.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, NEW CLEVELAND.

In 1861 the Rev. Sebastian Ganther organized a mission at New Cleveland, while he was pastor of St. John's church at Glandorf. It was attended by the following pastors of Glandorf until 1873: Rev. Ganther, 1861-68; Rev. Engelbert Ruf, 1868-72, and Rev. Jacob Marte, 1872, to April, 1873, from Glandorf as a mission.

John Weis donated a two-acre tract of land in 1861 as a site for a church and pastoral residence. The church was built in the fall of the same year at a cost of one thousand seven hundred dollars and dedicated to the Holy Family. This was enlarged in 1881 and at present the church is fully equipped and its furnishings are very complete. In April, 1873, Rev. Charles Barber was appointed to take charge of the congregation and bears the distinction of being the first resident pastor. He served until March, 1874, when he was succeeded by Rev. H. Kaempker, who served until April, 1878. The following pastors have since served the church: Rev. E. Hipelius, April, 1878, to June, 1880; Rev. J. Rosenberg, June 1880, to April, 1888; Rev. J. Eyler, April, 1888, to January, 1889; Rev. J. Bertemes, January, 1889, to 1891; Rev. Amadeus Dambach, 1891, 1905; Albert Cernp, 1905-

1914; A. R. Noltia, 1914, to present time. The first parochial residence was built by Father Barbier in 1873 at a cost of one thousand dollars. In 1906 Father Cerup built the present parochial residence at a cost of eight thousand dollars. Three years later a frame parish school was erected on a lot opposite the church, and placed in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis, who conducted it until 1889. At present the children attend the Catholic district schools.

ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION CHURCH, NORTH CREEK.

The Catholic families of North Creek, prior to the year 1889, were desirous of having a church of their own, as they found it difficult to attend mass at New Bavaria, with which parish they were identified. They made their desire known to Bishop Gilmour and he acceded to their wish in April, 1887. Three acres of land were donated by Ferdinand Ball as a site for the proposed church. The church building was a frame structure and cost one thousand two hundred dollars. The Ft. Jennings church donated the altar and a supply of vestments and the Glandorf congregation donated the pews. But for more than a year they were without the services of a priest, owing to a shortage, and the little church was not used for its sacred purpose. The people who had made the sacrifices were obliged, therefore, to continue their affiliations with the parish of New Bavaria. But their desires were soon realized and in January, 1889, the resident pastor of Holgate was directed to attend the mission. In March, 1890, the Holgate pastor was removed to Toledo and the mission was again without the services of a pastor. Again, in June of the same year, it was attached to Holgate and has been attended monthly from the place since that time.

ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH, CLOVERDALE.

The Cloverdale congregation is an outgrowth of the Ottoville parish and consisted at first of only ten Catholic families. The surrounding country is settled largely by prosperous German Catholic farmers, who form the principal membership of the congregation. In order to obviate the necessity of going to Ottoville, seven miles distant, the farmers petitioned Bishop Horstmann for permission to erect a church for themselves. This permission was granted as soon as they gave evidence of their ability to build and pay for the desired church. This was done in January, 1895, and the Rev. Michael Mueller, pastor of Ottoville, was commissioned to secure a proper

site to serve for a church, school and pastoral residence. A three-acre tract of land was bought and in the summer of 1898 a frame church, forty by ninety feet in size, was built at a cost of five thousand dollars. It was dedicated in August of the same year to St. Barbara. For two years Cloverdale was attended from Ottoville every Sunday as a mission by Father Mueller, assisted by Rev. Henry Wichmann. Father Wichmann was appointed resident pastor of Cloverdale in June, 1900, and in the fall of the same year he had a residence built at a cost of about three thousand dollars. The parish numbers about eighty-five families at present. The school children are accommodated by the Catholic district schools, a regular parochial school being impracticable, as the children live too far from the church. In 1903-04 Father Wichmann succeeded in erecting a brick school building at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. Four teachers serve the school, which has an attendance of one hundred and eighty pupils.

CHAPTER IX.

NEWSPAPERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

In writing the history of Putnam county it is but meet that its newspapers receive specific mention, as they were not only among its first enterprises, but aided greatly in the development of the county. They have given the general news on almost every subject of a public nature and have been prone to comment in a fearless manner upon public events.

Before the Civil War there were but few daily papers in existence in this state, and they were not taken by the people generally, as the mail facilities were such that a daily paper would not reach the people here until at least a week after its publication.

In the early history of this part of the state a number of newspapers were started, not only to promote the development of the various counties, but to promulgate political opinions as well. As the counties were formed their political complexion was in doubt and the partisans of both the Democratic and Whig parties, the leading political organizations of that time, were anxious to obtain the ascendancy. The general politics of that time in this part of the state showed a tendency toward Democracy. Whenever a Democratic paper was started, the Whigs, if they had the political strength, started a paper in opposition, to advocate their principles.

Partyism in those days, as between the Democrats and Whigs, was very intense and political questions were argued with a bitterness of feeling that does not now exist among political parties.

Among the county newspapers published in this part of the State before the Civil War were the *Kalida Venture*, in this county; the *Defiance Democrat* and the *Defiance Banner*, at Defiance; the *Hancock Courier*, at Findlay; the *Western Empire*, at St. Marys; the *Lima Argus* and the *Lima Reporter*, at Lima; the *Section to Budget* and the *Delphos Oracle*, at Delphos; the *Fulton Democrat*, at Ottobee, and possibly one or two other papers.

In those days the successful publication of a county paper was a problem difficult of solution. While the subscription price was twice as much as that of the papers of today, the circulation of the papers was very limited and the patronage equally limited in the way of advertising. The art of ad-

vertising was only in its infancy, for what is now known as commercial or business advertising was scarcely known and such an advertisement would have been a novelty. The only advertising of the kind was that of patent medicines, the proprietors of which were certainly the pioneers in business advertising. The great revenue and the main support for the newspapers then was what is known as "legal notices," and the great amount of them requiring publication afforded a revenue to the publisher sufficient to keep his newspaper afloat for the entire year. Notices of foreclosure, sheriff's sales, cases in chancery, road notices, etc., were numerous and filled many columns of the newspaper. In those days what is known as the delinquent and forfeited land lists, which required publication, was a great source of revenue to the printer, the list making from three to four pages of the paper and was considered as a bonanza by the papers which published it.

In those days the county newspaper had to cover considerable ground in its make-up. It had to give its readers literary matter, articles on scientific subjects, historical matter, natural history and much pertaining to the arts and sciences, as books were scarce and the masses of the people unable to purchase them. The proceedings of Congress and State Legislatures were published at length and the editorials were principally devoted to politics and the discussion of public and party questions. Considerable attention was also given to foreign news upon the arrival of steamships from foreign countries.

This fact no doubt had a bearing upon the subject matter which appeared in the county papers of that time, as they were compelled to keep their readers informed in regard to matters of state, and to express the views of the editor upon all issues of a public nature. In this respect the county papers filled the wants of the people, who at the time were greatly interested in such matters. The county paper in those days was certainly ably edited, as much ability was displayed in the articles of its editor. However, if the newspaper of today was each week filled with the same kind of reading matter as then published, its circulation would be very limited. But it was what the people of that day wanted and they were satisfied.

There was scarcely a reference to local events and only things of more than ordinary import were mentioned, and they in a very brief manner, except in a cases of murder or fatal accidents.

The county newspapers of ante-bellum days were very different in many respects from those of today. The paper upon which it was printed was made entirely of rags and was of excellent quality. The type used was much better than that of today, and would last five times as long, even if it

was run on a power press. The old hand press did not injure the type by impression like the modern presses, and the type produced a clear and clean impression, even if the appliances for inking it were very crude and simple.

Then, too, money was a scarce commodity in ante-bellum days and the newspaper publisher was compelled to take anything he could use in payment on subscriptions or advertising. For this reason, wolf scalps, raccoon skins, corn, pork, chickens, eggs, stove wood, dried apples, and scores of other miscellaneous products were gladly received by the editor.

KALIDA VENTURE.

The first newspaper of Putnam county was very appropriately called the *Kalida Venture* and it does not take a vivid imagination to figure out why the editor chose such a name. The venturesome editor was Francis Gillette, who at the same time eked out a livelihood by practicing law in the county seat. From the time of the first issue, February 20, 1841, Putnam county has not been without at least one paper, although the editors have undoubtedly often had a hard time to make both ends meet. The files of this *Venture* have not been preserved and the dates of changes in ownership are difficult to trace. However, the succeeding owners are known and are given in the order in which they had charge of the paper.

Gillette was evidently not a success as a newspaper man, for within a short time he disposed of the paper to Horace Knapp, later the author of the "History of the Maumee Valley." Knapp struggled with the *Venture* until 1845, when James McKenzie, a prominent lawyer of Kalida, undertook to add editorial duties to his legal practice. This disciple of Blackstone must have been a man of ability, since he continued as owner and editor of the paper until 1854. At that time he was succeeded by Luther Wolf, and subsequently John Dixon became the sole owner and editor and so continued until the county seat was moved to Ottawa in 1866. Just when Dixon moved his plant to the new county seat is not known, but it appears to have been in 1865 or the year following. With the change of location went a change of name and the *Venture* appears in Ottawa as the *Citizen*. The change of location and name seemed to have been too severe a shock, and the newly-born *Citizen* soon breathed its last.

KALIDA SENTINEL.

In 1865 the *Kalida Sentinel* was established by Elam Day. As the name indicates, it was a Democratic sheet. Just why the name *Sentinel* was early appropriated by Democratic editors will probably always remain a mystery, but it is safe to say that every paper bearing the name has been of that political persuasion. As in the case of the *Venture*, the files of the *Sentinel* are missing and consequently exact dates are not available. Day was succeeded after a short time by Luther Wolf, who, in turn, was succeeded by Levi G. Lee. The paper must have been unprofitable, if frequent changes in ownership are any indication of the success of the enterprise. Lee evidently remained at the head of the paper only a short time, since it is known that M. G. Gillette was editing the paper during the Civil War.

At the close of the war, presumably at the time the county seat was changed to Ottawa, the *Sentinel* was moved by Gillette from Kalida to Ottawa and rechristened the *Putnam County Sentinel*, a name which it has now borne for half a century. Upon the removal, there was a change in ownership, Gillette taking in as partners Stephen Godfrey and Leonard Miller. Miller was intrusted with the editorial management and remained in this capacity until some time in 1866, when he retired from the newspaper business, Godfrey and Gillette continuing the paper until 1867.

In June, 1867, George D. Kinder purchased Godfrey's interest in the *Sentinel* and a year later secured the interest of Gillette, thereby becoming the sole owner. Mr. Kinder continued as editor and proprietor for a period of thirty-five years and during his long connection with it built up a newspaper medium which took high rank among the papers of the state. In 1900 Mr. Kinder decided to lay aside the cares of the editorial chair and sold his paper to a stock company. A stock company, with some changes in stockholders, has been in charge of the paper down to the present time, although it has had several changes in the editorial management. In 1913 A. P. Sandles became the managing editor and has since continued to serve in that capacity. While Mr. Kinder has no financial interest in the *Sentinel*, he still retains his chair in the office of the paper and has assisted in the publication of practically every issue for the past fifteen years with the exception of the four years he spent in the treasurer's office. The love for his old paper keeps him in close touch with the business and the probability is that the *Sentinel* will continue to bear the impress of his individuality as long as he lives. Few men in the state have been connected with the newspaper

business longer than Mr. Kinder and still fewer have made as pronounced success in this line of activity.

PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOKRAT.

Der Demokrat was established at Ottawa in 1887 by C. W. Bente. He remained in charge of the paper until September, 1890, when he sold it to Henry Holterman. A year later Mr. Holterman disposed of the paper to Carl Wohlfarth, who was sole owner and editor until May, 1892, at which time he sold a half interest in the paper to H. F. Rauh. The new firm was known as the Demokrat Publishing Company and continued in charge of the paper until March 4, 1893. On that date Mr. Rauh bought the plant at receiver's sale and at once made plans to place the paper on a sound financial basis. He succeeded beyond his expectations and within a short time it was enjoying a large circulation and advertising patronage and became one of the leading German publications of the Northwest. Mr. Rauh has now been in charge of the paper for nearly a quarter of a century and has built up a circulation which extends far beyond the limits of Putnam county.

OTTAWA TELEGRAM.

During the Civil War, in 1862 or 1863, John M. McElroy, now editor of the *National Tribune* of Washington, D. C., started a paper in Ottawa which he called the *Telegram*, but, for reasons not known, it was destined to live for only a short time. McElroy soon disposed of the paper to Jacob S. Foster, who struggled with the wavering sheet a few months and then discontinued it.

OTTAWA GAZETTE.

The *Ottawa Gazette* was founded in September, 1881, by C. L. H. Long, who retained his connection with the paper for a few years and then disposed of it to George Bassett. The new proprietor continued in charge but about six months and then sold it to Hoffa & Vale, the new proprietors managing the paper until the spring of 1893. In that year C. P. Godfrey became the owner and ran the paper until about 1901. He was succeeded by J. H. Letcher and after struggling for a few years with the sheet he sold it to E. B. Walkup, who continued as owner and editor until 1913. At that time a stock company was organized to take over the paper. This stock company was composed of the following persons: J. P. Leasure, Jean P.

Vale, G. A. Stauffer, L. E. Eastman, Angela Eastman, A. Graham, D. R. Jenkins, Sr., H. I. and E. M. Kahle, Samuel Burkholder, William Rimer, Guy R. Coit and Charles Veach. Jean P. Vale was made editor and manager and continued in this double capacity until April 26, 1915. She then retired from the paper and the editorial management was assumed by G. A. Stauffer, while B. H. Spitler became the business manager. At the same time L. E. Eastman became the secretary of the board of directors.

LEIPSIK FREE PRESS.

The *Leipsik Free Press* was established on September 13, 1878, by W. W. Smith, who remained the proprietor and editor until his death, on February 14, 1912. For many years he issued it as a semi-weekly. After his death his son, George F., assumed charge of the paper and still continues as editor.

LEIPSIK TRIBUNE.

The *Leipsik Tribune* was founded in 1891 by Pratt Kline. He was succeeded by H. F. Wendle, who retained connection with the paper as proprietor and editor for a number of years and then disposed of it to W. H. Holderman, the present editor.

OTHER COLUMBUS GROVE PAPERS.

There have been at least two other papers published at Columbus Grove—the *Record* and the *Clipper*, but neither paper had more than an ephemeral existence. The *Clipper* was founded by F. S. Kline in 1893 and lived a more or less precarious existence for about three years.

KALIDA RECORD.

The *Kalida Record* was established in the nineties by E. J. Bolerjack, who was succeeded by W. N. Curtiss, the present owner and editor. Curtiss also printed the *Ottoville Leader*, a weekly paper devoted to Ottoville news and advertising, from December, 1912, to March, 1915.

PANDORA TIMES.

J. R. Swaney founded the *Pandora Times* in 1899 and conducted it for two years. In 1901 A. J. Stevens purchased the paper, but a few months

later disposed of it to D. B. Basinger, the present owner and editor. Mr. Basinger also issues from his press the *Missionary Worker*, a semi-monthly publication, and the *Baeschafter*, a monthly German paper.

CONTINENTAL UNION-NEWS.

The *Continental Union-News* was started several years ago and was eventually disposed of to J. H. Hartman, who has been the editor since that time. Since he has the only paper in the town, he has made a financial success.

THE PUTNAM COUNTY VIDETTE.

The files of the *Vidette* are in very poor shape and many of the numbers are missing entirely, consequently the early history of the paper is hard to get. The *Vidette* was founded in 1873 by W. C. Tinge, but just how long he continued to edit the paper cannot be ascertained, nor who became his successor. The following is as complete a list of the editors as could be secured:

Edward L. Voit, 1897-1902; Truman N. Varaan, 1903-1904; Mrs. Jean P. Vale, September 16, 1904-November 18, 1904; H. B. Cartwright, November 18, 1904-May 12, 1905; A. R. Eversol, May 12, 1905-September 14, 1906; Mrs. J. P. Vale and Frank E. Ward, September 14, 1906-1907; Frank E. Ward, 1907-October 1, 1914; W. H. Holderman, October 1, 1914, to the present time.

OTTOVILLE TRI-COUNTY NEWS.

The *Ottoville Tri-County News* was established in 1906 by Mr. Fluhart, a newspaper man who had been conducting a paper at Continental. The first issue of the paper was printed in Continental, but all of his succeeding issues were printed in Ottoville. Fluhart purchased a job printing outfit of C. B. Wannemacher, of Ottoville, in 1906, which Wannemacher had been operating since March, 1904. Fluhart's paper gave special attention to the news of Putnam, Van Wert and Paulding counties, hence the name of *Tri-County News*. A few years later, Fluhart sold the paper to Thomas Siebold, who continued it under the old name until about 1910. In that year he moved the plant to Middlepoint, Ohio, where he is still in the newspaper business.

OTTOVILLE LEADER.

After the *Tri-County News* was discontinued, C. B. Wannemacher bought a good newspaper plant and in July, 1910, issued the first number of the *Ottoville Leader*. He printed the paper regularly until July 28, 1911, when he issued his last number (Vol. II, No. 53). Shortly afterwards, Wannemacher disposed of his plant to W. N. Curtiss, who sold the press and part of the equipment, and installed the rest of it in the office of the *Kalida Record*, of which he was the owner and editor. In December, 1912, Curtiss began to issue the *Ottoville Leader* from the press of the *Record* in Kalida and continued to do so until the spring of 1915, when he discontinued it. At the present time Ottoville is without a paper, although the *Kalida Record* devotes one page each week to Ottoville news and advertising.

CHAPTER X.

BANKS AND BANKING.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA.

The First National Bank of Ottawa was organized in 1903 with the following officers: D. N. Powell, president; S. F. DeFord, vice-president; William Annesser, cashier. This is the only national bank in Putnam county.

After twelve years of steadily increasing business, the bank issued the following statement: Capital stock, \$25,000; deposits, \$250,000; surplus, \$4,200. The management of the bank has always been conservative and economical. The present officers are as follows: David N. Powell, president; S. F. DeFord, vice-president; William Annesser, second vice-president; J. C. Jones, cashier; William Annesser, S. F. DeFord, F. W. Hoffman, J. C. Jones, James A. Maidlow, L. N. Welde, D. N. Powell, directors.

THE BANK OF OTTAWA COMPANY.

The Bank of Ottawa was originally organized as a private bank by I. H. Kahle, Dr. W. F. Reed and W. H. Harper, Jr., on July 10, 1894. It continued to operate as a private bank until November 26, 1904, when it was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, and has continued to operate as a state bank since that date.

The first officers were: Dr. W. F. Reed, president; I. H. Kahle, vice-president; W. H. Harper, cashier. The present officers are: M. A. Kahle, president; J. W. Smith, vice-president; F. G. Kahle, cashier; G. W. Kahle, assistant cashier; Albert Kahle, assistant cashier. It has a capital stock of \$25,000, with deposits amounting to \$550,000 and a surplus of \$6,000.

This is the oldest state bank in Putnam county and has the largest deposits of any bank, either state or national, in the county. This bank has long been recognized as one of the most popular banking institutions in this section of Ohio. This is largely due to the conservative methods which the bank has at all times employed and to the fact that at the same time it has extended to its customers every courtesy consistent with conservative banking.

CONTINENTAL BANK.

The Continental Bank was organized in 1890, with the following officers: J. H. Edwards, president; W. W. Edwards, vice-president; I. N. Bushong, cashier. This bank is unincorporated and at present the liabilities amount to \$1,000,000.

The first bank building was destroyed by fire on June 8, 1912, and the present beautiful structure was erected the following year. The bank opened up for business in its new, modern, fire- and burglar-proof quarters, which were on the south side of the railroad tracks, in October, 1913. The present officers are: J. H. Edwards, president; I. N. Bushong, vice-president; C. P. Palmer, cashier.

The Continental Bank has done an extensive real estate, mortgage and loan business and at the present time has more mortgages and loans in Putnam county than any other banking firm. Every year has shown a marked increase in the business of this bank.

FARMERS STATE AND SAVINGS BANK.

The Farmers State and Savings Bank of Continental was organized in 1913 and opened for business on January 31, 1914, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The officers are: C. E. Wright, president; A. J. Mullet, vice-president; C. R. Blauvelt, cashier. A new building is in process of construction, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and bids fair to be the best bank building in the county. Seventy-five of the best citizens of the county are stockholders. Its deposits are \$125,000, with a surplus of \$1,000, and at the end of only fifteen months' business its resources amounted to over \$153,000. This promises to be one of the strong financial institutions of the county.

BELMORE BANKING COMPANY.

The Belmore Banking Company, of Belmore, was organized in 1908. The present officers are: D. Ensinger, president; N. Speaker, vice-president; T. J. Veach, cashier. This banking company has a capital stock of \$12,500 and deposits amounting to \$85,000.

THE BANK OF LEIPSIK.

The Bank of Leipsic was organized in 1888. It is a private bank, with the following stockholders: J. H. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, E. C. Edwards, W. W. Edwards' estate, John Edwards' estate, F. D. Rosenberger, Ruth Leslie, Mac E. Palmer, Lucile M. Spencer, Floss E. Closson, O. P. Edwards, T. C. Edwards, S. F. Edwards, W. E. Edwards, Lillian D. Emery. J. H. Edwards is president, and F. D. Rosenberger, cashier of the bank.

THE PEOPLE'S BANK COMPANY.

The People's Bank Company of Columbus Grove was organized in 1892. This bank is one of the oldest in the county and has been under the same management for twenty-three years. It has an authorized capital stock of \$60,000 and deposits of \$450,000, with surplus and profits of \$15,000. The present officers are: William Basinger, president; L. J. Lemley, vice-president; J. W. Core, cashier. It has had a steadily-increasing business ever since it was founded, and though there have been times when the country finances were not the best, still this bank has come through it all unscathed.

The Vaughnsville Banking Company is a branch of the People's Banking Company of Columbus Grove.

THE PEOPLE'S BANK COMPANY.

The People's Bank Company of Kalida was organized in 1899. The present officers are: Joseph Kahle, president; Edson Seitz, vice-president; Charles A. Borman, cashier. The capital stock at present is \$25,000. The deposits aggregate \$180,000, with a surplus of \$1,250.

THE FARMERS BANK COMPANY.

The Farmers Bank Company of Pandora was organized in 1900 and has had a steady growth since that time. The figures of this bank give the best insight into its history and management: Capital stock, \$25,000; deposits, \$181,666 48; surplus, \$6,500; resources, \$259,774.91.

The present officers are: David Risser, president; Albert Schultz, vice-president; P. A. Amstutz, cashier; W. M. Risser, secretary; Henry Grismore, treasurer.

BELMORE BANKING COMPANY.

The Belmore Banking Company was chartered April 1, 1907. The first officers were: G. G. Bennett, president; J. W. Swickard, vice-president; C. R. Blauvelt, cashier; G. G. Bennett, C. R. Blauvelt, J. W. Swickard and Ford H. Lanning, directors. The capital paid in is \$12,500. This banking company, although still young, has had a very nice business. The present officers are: D. Enslinger, president; N. Speaker, vice-president; T. J. Veitch, cashier; J. V. Knoxe, N. Speaker, R. J. George, D. Enslinger, C. H. Stone, Mrs. James Robinson and Mrs. J. W. Wingate, directors.

OTTOVILLE BANKING COMPANY.

The Ottoville Banking Company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, October 24, 1903, with the following incorporators: F. J. Maehlmann, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher and Alpheus A. Roth. The first officers were C. J. Wannemacher, president; John J. Miller, vice-president; F. J. Maehlmann, cashier; Andrew Yocklin, Alpheus A. Roth, Edward G. Odenweller, J. H. Wannemacher, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher and F. J. Maehlmann, directors. The bank was opened for business, February 1, 1904, with a capital stock and surplus of \$40,000. The present officers are: J. C. Wannemacher, president; John J. Miller, vice-president; F. J. Maehlmann, cashier; Edith Maehlmann, assistant cashier; Benedict Wannemacher, John H. Wannemacher, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher, and F. J. Maehlmann, directors.

THE OTTAWA HOME AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Ottawa Home and Savings Association was organized on July 28, 1888, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. The purpose of this association was the raising of money, to be loaned to its members and others, for the purpose of buying lots and building, making repairs and such other purposes as are authorized by law. Loans are made exclusively on first mortgages on real estate. The secretary and treasurer are under heavy bonds, and all officers are amenable to the state, under the criminal law, to act in good faith. The loans are made in small sums and the most rigid rules are enforced for the protection of all concerned; no loans are made outside the limits of Putnam county. The first officers were: W. W. Kelly, president; F. H. Brockman, vice-president; George C. Williams,

George D. Hamden, Calvin P. Godfrey, committee on securities; O. H. Odell, H. W. Schmitschulte; E. R. Eastman, secretary; John F. Cover, treasurer; William C. G. Krauss, attorney. The present officers are: J. S. Ogan, president; H. W. Schmitschulte, vice-president; L. E. Eastman, secretary; E. R. Eastman, attorney; directors, J. S. Ogan, H. W. Schmitschulte, Dr. Paul P. Sherwood, Herman Wise, George J. Keinath, George D. Kinder, George C. Williams. Membership is free to any resident of this county. At present the assets amount to approximately \$245,000, and the depositors receive from five to six per cent annually, contingent upon their earnings.

PALMER TOWNSHIP MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The Palmer Township Mutual Fire Insurance Association was organized on December 8, 1888, having received from the secretary of state a certificate of incorporation on this date. On January 12, 1889, the incorporators held a meeting at school house number 2 in Palmer township, for the purpose of electing officers and adopting the constitution and by-laws for the association, according to law. The following officers were elected: William Schafer, president; John Williams, clerk or secretary; Victor Noirot, treasurer; J. N. Frankart, J. P. Rigg and Henry Homire, directors. The purpose of this association is to insure farm property against loss by fire, lightning and wind storms. The membership at present numbers one thousand two hundred and the mutual risks in force amount to over \$3,250,000. The present officers are: R. R. Oliver, president; Henry P. Schafer, secretary; Michael Williams, treasurer; Victor Noirot, Harry Stubben, C. E. Wight, Ed F. Quaintance and J. G. Yetter, directors. The territory comprises fourteen townships: seven in Putnam county, three in Paulding county, two in Defiance county and two in Henry county.

GLANDORF GERMAN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The German Mutual Insurance Association, of Glandorf, was organized in 1878. It was the first mutual fire insurance association organized in the county. The purpose of this association was to insure against loss by fire, lightning and storms. There are eight hundred and ninety policies in force at the present time and the risks at present amount to \$2,080,000. The present officers are: William Gulker, president; J. W. Halker, secretary; August Fialer, treasurer; Joseph Stiehochulte, F. W. Schwester and Joseph Gerdeman, directors.

PUTNAM COUNTY GERMAN FARMERS MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Putnam County German Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company was founded on September 19, 1895. E. B. Mphans served as the first president; B. A. Ruhe, secretary; Frank Recker, treasurer; William Kohls, G. B. Moening and Henry E. Hermiller, directors. The purpose of this organization was to insure property against loss through fire, lightning and storm; also to insure live stock against fire and lightning. Mutual assessments are made only when losses accrue and an assessment of five cents on the one hundred dollars capital paid into the treasury each year is made for current expenses and fees of officers. The membership at present numbers two hundred and fifty, with a capital stock of \$710,000. The officers at present are: Joseph Hotnire, president; Jodokus Smitz, secretary; Frank Hohenbrink, treasurer; Joseph Brickner, B. Utendorf and B. Gerdeman, directors.

EXCHANGE BANK, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove was established in 1873 by Simon Mapel and others. Several years afterwards, W. T. Mapel took possession and continued the business until about 1893, when Wilson Martin and J. M. Crawford bought his interests. In a short time a partnership was formed by J. M. Crawford, B. F. Seitz, Sr., W. L. Crawford and F. E. Palmer, and the officers were: J. M. Crawford, president; B. F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president; W. L. Crawford, cashier; F. E. Palmer, assistant cashier. This organization continued until W. L. Crawford died, in 1907, when Mr. Palmer became cashier, and W. M. Crawford, assistant cashier.

In December, 1910, Mr. Palmer sold his interests to A. M. Heidlebaugh, who became vice-president, and W. M. Crawford was elected cashier. After the death of J. M. Crawford, on May 22, 1911, B. F. Seitz, Sr., was elected president.

During January, 1914, Isaac Campbell, D. C. Campbell and F. R. Mason purchased the interest formerly owned by W. L. Crawford and this organization continued until September, 1914, when the bank was incorporated, with the capital increased to thirty thousand dollars, Homer R. Day, Henry Cupp and James J. Kissell becoming stockholders. Early in the present year, 1915, Dr. W. H. Begg and other stockholders bought the interests of Isaac Campbell and F. R. Mason. The present directors are: Homer R. Day, D. C. Campbell, Henry Cupp, B. F. Seitz, Sr., A. M. Heidlebaugh and W. M.

Crawford. The officers are: A. M. Heidlebaugh, president; B. F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president, and W. M. Crawford, cashier.

THE GLANDORF GERMAN BUILDING AND LOAN COMPANY.

The Glandorf German Building and Loan Company was organized in 1887 by the following citizens of Glandorf: J. H. Uphaus, William Altekruise, J. W. Halker, Joseph Horstmann, Francis Nigsch, I. H. Kahle, William Rampe, Sr., Joseph Winkelmann, Joseph Nienberg and William F. Hoffman.

The state of Ohio granted the charter for the incorporation of this company under its laws, September 24, 1887. This was the first building and loan company formed in Putnam county. The purpose of this company was the raising of money, which was to be loaned among its members. The prosperity of this company was assured from the start and the shares of stock were always in demand.

This company was first organized with a capital stock of \$250,000, which was divided into 1,000 shares of \$250 each. These shares were sold to residents of the county only. As evidence of the rapid growth of the company, the capital stock was raised to \$1,000,000.

The present officers are: J. W. Halker, president; F. W. Hoffman, treasurer; B. A. Nienberg, secretary; B. A. Unverferth, attorney; J. W. Halker, B. A. Nienberg, Theodore Deters, Matthias Kerner, F. W. Hoffmann, G. H. Uphous, J. H. Kleman, F. W. Schroeder, Theodore Heckman, P. A. Misser and John Merschmann, directors.

The money for loan was always in such demand that it was let out at auction and went to the highest bidder. The records show where this has reached as much as thirty-three cents premium and, in one instance, forty cents premium on the share of two hundred and fifty dollars and this was paid besides the regular six per cent interest.

The present status of the business is on a firm basis, although with the coming of the banks the rates of interest were cut down. The first officers were J. H. Uphaus, president; Dr. A. Borman, vice-president; H. F. Rauh, first secretary; William Altekruise, second secretary; Joseph Nienberg, treasurer; William Rampe, Sr., J. W. Halker, Ignatius Kahle, Henry Wortkoetter, Joseph Kersting and John Smith, directors.

An interesting fact is noted concerning the minutes of the meetings and the early records. The early records were written in German script, but in 1905 they were changed to English, as the inspector could not read German.

The minutes of this company are all in a good state of preservation and show the careful and business-like methods of the organization.

OTTOVILLE FARMERS MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

The Farmers Mutual Aid Association of Ottoville was incorporated on February 23, 1904, and commenced business on July 2, of the same year. The first officers of the incorporation were as follows: President, Max Winkelman; secretary, George Altenburger; treasurer, Anton Hoehn; directors, John H. Wannemacher, A. J. Yocklin, Joseph Miehl, Charles F. Henry and Henry Giesken.

The company's charter does not limit its territory, although all the policies are held in the counties of Putnam, Van Wert, Paulding and Allen. Fire insurance in the company covers all losses by both fire and lightning, whether on farm property, in the shape of dwellings or barns, or on live stock. All losses are covered by assessments, which may be made at the discretion of the directors. The success of the company has been remarkable from the start. The last annual statement of the secretary, George Altenburger, on December 31, 1914, shows that the company has 813 risks in force, with a gross amount of policies totaling \$2,181,412.00. The total losses in 1914 amounted to \$250.13, of which \$129 was fire loss and \$121.13, loss by lightning. From the beginning of its existence down to the end of 1914, the company has only paid out \$17,566.76 for losses, thus demonstrating that insurance in the company has cost the policy-holders less than one per cent on the hundred. This is sufficient reason why the company has met with such success and is proof that its future success is assured.

The present officers are as follows: President, W. T. Remlinger; secretary, George Altenburger; treasurer, Charles Rekart; directors, John H. Wannemacher, Joseph Miehl, William Schlagbaum, William Stretker and D. F. Miller.

PEOPLES BANK, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Peoples Bank was organized in 1892 by G. W. Core, with Christian Basinger, L. J. Lemley, Lewis Lemley and David Core as partners, Christian Basinger being president; L. J. Lemley, vice-president, and G. W. Core, cashier. Later David Core retired from the partnership and the bank was operated as a private bank until 1906, when a charter was taken out under state law, with an authorized capital of sixty thousand dollars. In 1909 a branch bank was established at Vaughnsville. In 1914 Christian Basinger was succeeded as president by his son, William. G. W. Core, cashier, is the active manager of the bank.

CHAPTER XI.

SECRET SOCIETIES, FRATERNITIES AND CLUBS.

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered on October 16, 1860, at Ottawa, Ohio. Its charter members were John P. Simons, Elias Farabee, L. Swazey, C. Ewing, C. M. Godfrey, J. L. Olney, George Morehead, C. J. Mann, A. Budd, William Lowry, William Robinson, Isaac Allen, Jacob Lentzy, Nutter Powell, T. E. Paul, J. S. Conine, H. V. Watts and George Springer. J. L. Olney is the only charter member now living.

The following members have served the lodge as past masters: C. M. Godfrey, H. V. Watts, L. W. Moe, C. J. Swan, J. L'H. Long, N. E. Matthews, H. M. Summers, J. W. Brown, J. J. Zeller, C. E. Row, A. L. Paul, W. H. Loy, E. R. Eastman, A. P. Sandles, S. F. DeFord, J. W. Smith, Herman Wise, P. P. Sherwood and F. M. Ackerman.

The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty-six. The officers are: W. R. Deck, worshipful master; L. E. Eastman, senior warden; Ralph U. Hall, junior warden; Herman Wise, treasurer, and A. Graham, secretary.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Ottawa Chapter No. 115, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered on October 16, 1869, with the following charter members: J. L'H. Long, L. W. Moe, Elias W. Green, Charles Schimpff, C. M. Godfrey, W. F. Reed, C. J. Swan, D. N. McCullough, A. J. Taylor, J. B. Sprague, Alexander Slemmons, Jacob Werner and Anderson Reeder.

The high priests who have served the chapter up to the present time are: J. L'H. Long, C. J. Swan, T. D. Campbell, C. E. Row, Joseph Justice, A. L. Paul, F. M. Ackerman, N. E. Matthews, W. H. Loy, C. H. Rice, S. F. DeFord, G. E. Jones, J. W. Smith, A. M. Heidlebaugh, E. V. Burns and C. W. Fogle.

The present membership numbers one hundred and eighty-seven. The

present officers are: Charles C. Cass, high priest; J. W. Brown, king; Herman McDougle, scribe; Herman Wise, treasurer; A. Graham, secretary.

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

Putnam Council No. 69, Royal and Select Masters, was chartered on March 13, 1879, with the following charter members: J. L'H. Long, H. N. Gessells, N. E. Matthews, G. D. Kinder, L. W. Moe, W. F. Reed, A. Reeder, J. B. Sprague and H. C. Sherrard.

The following have served the council as thrice illustrious master: J. L'H. Long, N. E. Matthews, A. L. Paul, E. L. Frey, Joseph Justice, F. M. Ackerman, W. H. Loy, S. F. DeFord, W. S. Zeller, J. W. Brown, W. H. Handy, J. W. Smith and E. R. Eastman.

The present officers are Herman McDougle, thrice illustrious master; E. V. Burns, deputy master; Charles C. Cass, principal conductor of work; Herman Wise, treasurer, and A. Graham, recorder. The membership numbers one hundred and sixty-five.

MASONS AT COLUMBUS GROVE.

Rufus Putnam Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons, at Columbus Grove, was chartered on May 26, 1866. The following were charter members: E. W. Greene, John Sheets, Allen Edmonds, S. Sanders, A. Reeder, W. L. Hartly, J. B. Sprague, H. H. Gessell, William Onem and J. B. Fruchey. Of these ten charter members, only two survive, H. H. Gessell and Allen Edmonds. Orren Curtis bears the distinction of being the first worshipful master. The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty-two.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

April 25, 1907, was the eighty-eighth anniversary of Odd Fellowship. On April 25, 1819, five men met in Baltimore, Maryland, and organized what now numbers a membership of over a million people. This lodge was named the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and one hundred thousand members of the order are now connected with the lodges in Ohio alone.

Blanchard Lodge is the oldest lodge in Putnam county, having been instituted on June 2, 1855. Up to the annual meeting of the grand lodge, in May, 1906, this lodge had initiated two hundred and fifty-three members, and over four thousand five hundred dollars had been paid to members as

sick benefits, two hundred and forty-five dollars and fifty-five cents devoted to the relief of widows and orphans and eight hundred and fifty-one dollars and twenty-seven cents expended for charity. The lodge now has a membership of seventy-five and eight other lodges have been organized in the county since Blanchard Lodge was first organized. In July, 1864, the lodge purchased the lot upon which its temple now stands, and the elegant structure was erected a few years ago.

GILBOA LODGE.

Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered on August 8, 1870. The names of the charter members cannot be given, as the lodge room was destroyed by fire on August 8, 1875, and all the records were destroyed. A new charter was granted on December 23, 1876. The membership numbered seventy-two on January 1, 1915, of which number forty-four were past grands.

The amount paid out for sick benefits in the last eighteen years has averaged only one hundred dollars per year, or one thousand eight hundred in all. The amount paid for charity and special relief in the same time has amounted to eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars.

The present officers are Sherman Ketner, noble grand; P. W. Davis, vice-grand; W. H. Tobias, recording secretary; L. G. Phillips, financial secretary; J. G. Knepper, treasurer; Isaac Bracy, H. Harris and M. P. Orenbaugh, trustees.

LEIPSIC LODGE.

Leipsic Lodge No. 536, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on May 15, 1872, with ten charter members. Two of the charter members are still living, Martin Bowman and L. H. Casteel. This lodge has paid out five thousand dollars for sick benefits. The present membership is sixty.

Leipsic Encampment, Patriarchs Militant, was chartered August 9, 1877, with sixteen charter members.

DUPONT LODGE.

Dupont Lodge was instituted at Dupont, on November 11, 1882, with the following charter members: C. R. Bram, S. M. Reed, W. R. Castle, Alonzo Pitcher, John Dray, W. L. Wollam, Austin Combs, Samuel Stuckey, S. Barnard, J. Wagner, G. W. Stuckey, Philip Kessler and David Jenkins. Samuel Stuckey served as the first noble grand.



The present building was erected in 1900, at a cost of two thousand dollars. This building has furnished the members with spacious lodge rooms in which to conduct their meetings. The following are serving the lodge as officers at the present time: W. E. Cullen, Frank Reynolds, W. H. Thomas, C. C. Etter, John Meyers, A. B. Etter, Alonzo Pitcher and W. T. Etter. The present membership numbers forty-seven. The sick benefits as provided by this lodge are three dollars per week.

TOWNWOOD LODGE.

Townwood Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in December, 1902. The names of the charter members are as follows: W. F. Coakly, Jay Ott, John Coakly, John Bolix, Vinton McAter, R. A. Davenport, George Clemence, George Mulford, Cyrus Payne, B. B. Brundy, F. Gunther, James Robinson, J. B. Fisher, Winnie Wilson, William Wilson, A. D. Reynolds and J. C. Vanhead. J. B. Fisher and J. C. Vanhead served the lodge first in the capacity of noble grand. The chief officers who are now serving the lodge are L. M. Walker and John Trott.

The present beautiful and commodious building was erected in December, 1902, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, and has accommodated the members since the institution of the lodge. The present membership numbers fifty-five.

COLUMBUS GROVE LODGE.

Columbus Grove Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in 1870, with the following charter members: Henry Hemuck, E. G. Ford, W. Breckbill, J. D. Genett, Jacob Sheets, William Chase, John Keller, Frederick Doriat and A. T. Ransom. The present membership numbers eighty-six. The amount paid out for sick benefits up to date is one hundred and twenty-five dollars and twenty-five cents.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Blanchard Lodge No. 284, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered on June 2, 1855, with the following charter members: John Dixon, Lorenzo Parker, David L. Brown, John Monroe, Henry Niles, John B. Fruchey and Jacob Bressler. Jacob Bressler was the first noble grand.

On February 22, 1901, a building committee was appointed to draw plans for the erection of a lodge building. Samuel Cartwright, C. H. Rice

and W. S. Hipkins were chosen to carry out this work. On March 1 of the same year work was begun on the building. On December 30, 1901, permission was received from the grand master of the grand lodge to move the records to the new home. C. O. Periman bears the distinction of being the first man initiated in the new rooms, February 14, 1902.

The membership of the lodge has increased until at the present time it includes eighty-four active members. The present officers are S. O. Kerr, noble grand; W. E. Smith, vice-grand; D. R. Jenkins, Jr., treasurer; G. M. Cartwright, secretary.

KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES.

Ottawa Chapter No. 160, Knights of the Maccabees, was chartered on August 1, 1893, with sixteen charter members. This was the only chapter of Knights of the Maccabees ever installed in this county. This chapter has never been very active in its work and saw the greatest years of its prosperity while still young. At present this lodge has only five members.

NATIONAL UNION.

Sheridan Council No. 126, of the National Union, was organized in Ottawa, in August, 1888. There were thirty charter members. The membership reached forty-two at one time, but lapses, removals and deaths have reduced the live membership until at the present time it consists of only sixteen persons. The National Union has paid every death claim in full, without one cent of cost to the beneficiary. It is one of the best and cheapest fraternal insurance companies in existence today.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

Ottawa Council No. 1757, Knights of Columbus, was organized in Ottawa, in June, 1914, with sixty-five charter members. At present the membership numbers one hundred and seven. The officers are as follow: Joseph Kersting, grand knight; H. Edward Heckford, financial secretary. The purpose of this order is purely social and for insurance.

CATHOLIC KNIGHTS OF OHIO.

SS. Peter and Paul Branch No. 42, Catholic Knights of Ohio, was organized on June 12, 1893, at Ottawa, Ohio. There were twenty charter

members. The membership at present is approximately one hundred. It is purely an insurance order.

There are branches of this order in the following towns of Putnam county: Glandorf, Leipsic, Ft. Jennings, Miller City, Ottoville, Kalida, New Cleveland and Cloverdale.

THE RESEARCH CLUB.

The Research Club was founded in 1910 with the following charter members: Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, Mrs. George Jenkins, Mrs. Charles Mills, Mrs. C. B. Van Clue, Mrs. G. H. Williams, Mrs. P. D. Ward, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. G. F. Zeller, Miss Florence McClure, Miss Violet Sackett, Miss Grace Ward and Miss Lulu Walkup. Miss Florence McClure, president; Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, vice-president; Mrs. George Jenkins, secretary, and Miss Violet Sackett, treasurer, served as the first officers of the club.

The purpose of this club was to promote interest in the welfare of the community in which its members lived; to study and discuss the important questions of the day, and to familiarize themselves not only with our own country, but also the leading countries and islands in the Old World. The club has already studied rather thoroughly all the countries of the Old World and has taken up many of the greatest things of the United States. The work laid out for last year was "The World's Islands." For 1915-16, "The World's Islands," continued, and miscellaneous work.

The present members are Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, Mrs. Flora Frick, Mrs. C. L. Miller, Mrs. C. J. Moore, Mrs. D. N. Powell, Mrs. H. M. Summers, Mrs. G. H. Williams, Mrs. P. D. Ward, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. G. F. Zeller, Miss May Handy, Miss Florence McClure, Miss Grace Ward and Miss Sadie Wilkins. President, Mrs. H. M. Summers; vice-president, Mrs. D. N. Powell; secretary, Mrs. J. O. Cartwright; treasurer, Mrs. G. H. Williams.

KAPPA PHI DELTA.

The Kappa Phi Delta Club, at Ottawa, was organized in February, 1910, with nine charter members, as follows: Effie L. Arnold, Alta M. Thrapp, Ruth C. Frey, Bessie I. Seitz, Iva A. Gillis, Zelma McDowell, May Handy, Mrs. Belle D. Miller and Mrs. Carrie W. Bell. The first officers included the following: Effie L. Arnold, president; Alta M. Thrapp, vice-president; Ruth C. Frey, secretary; Bessie I. Seitz, treasurer. The purpose of the club is set

forth in its motto: "Working, not wishing; doing, not dreaming; boosting, not knocking."

The present membership includes twelve young ladies of Ottawa: Effie L. Arnold, Alta M. Thrapp, Ruth C. Frey, Zelma McDowell, May Handy, Evelyn Wilson, Mary Wilkins, Arey Claypool, Bertha McDugal, Lucy Agner, Mrs. Carrie Bell and Mrs. Leona Kerr. The officers for 1915 are as follows: Alta M. Thrapp, president; Zelma McDowell, vice-president; Mary Wilkins, secretary; Bessie I. Seitz, treasurer. The club is a member of the Ottawa federation of clubs.

PUTNAM CLUB.

The Putnam Club Company was chartered as an incorporation under the laws of the state of Ohio on April 4, 1904. The founders were Even R. Davis, M. P. Goetschins, A. R. Robenalt, F. G. Kahle and E. L. Frey.

The purpose of this club was not for material gain, but it was organized for literary and social culture and mental improvement. The citizens of Ottawa had no place to assemble for sociable gatherings and the founders took this means of providing a suitable place.

This club was capitalized at one thousand dollars, which was divided into forty shares and sold at twenty-five dollars a share, the proceeds of which were used for maintaining club rooms for members of the corporation and their guests and purchasing fixtures. The club rooms are fitted up with every convenience for the literary and social development of its members.

This club has had a steady increase in membership, which speaks well for the foresight of its founders, and at present totals sixty-six. The officers are: J. S. Ogin, president; N. E. Matthews, treasurer; J. W. Brown, secretary.

CATHOLIC LADIES OF COLUMBIA.

St. Anne's Council No. 7, Catholic Ladies of Columbia, was chartered on June 4, 1897, with the following charter members: Philomena Lehmkuhle, Lucinda M. Brinkle, Elizabeth Kraft, Mary A. Schmitschulte, Elizabeth C. Leopold, Catherine Brinkman, Mary Catherine Hansel, Sarah McGreevy, Mary Ciohosey, Catherine Amelia Kracht and Elizabeth M. Schmitschulte. The present membership numbers forty-two and fifteen additional applications were presented at the monthly meeting held on the second Tuesday in May.

The present officers are: Mary A. Schmitschulte, president; Anna Kersting, vice-president; Mary Rothman, recording secretary; Mary Brinkle, financial secretary; Elizabeth Kraft, treasurer; Frances Kreinbrik, monitor.

The purpose of this organization is purely insurance and sick benefits. There is also a relief department in connection with the insurance, which is optional with the members. Members of the relief department are paid five dollars a week when sick.

THE CENTENNIAL CLUB.

On February 26, 1913, Mrs. S. F. DeFord, who is a charter member of the Centennial Club, read before that body a paper which set forth the history of the club from the beginning to that time. It would be useless to try and give the history of this organization in better style than used by Mrs. DeFord, therefore we will print this article, with Mrs. DeFord's consent, as it was written:

"Thirty-seven years ago this month when the frost was on the snow, and the moonlight rays were bending low, and sparkling diamonds from their beds spread radiance o'er many heads, a company of ladies and gentlemen started for a delightful sleigh ride to Kalida to spend the evening. On the way, the conversation, which was in keeping with the frosty air and the beautiful snow, turned upon schools and literary clubs. Literary clubs were a scarce medium of exchange at this time, there being only one in the whole state of Ohio. The ladies particularly talked about literary clubs, and the more they talked and thought about them, the more enthusiastic they became on the subject. Finally, they came to the conclusion that they would start one in Ottawa for the women of the town who might be interested in a purely literary organization.

"I was not fortunate enough to be a member of the Kalida party on that eventful night, but the next morning two women, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kinder, came to my home to talk over the question with me. Of course, I was very much interested in the establishment of such an organization as they proposed, and at once entered into the project with enthusiasm. I thought a club of this nature would be a great asset to ladies of Ottawa, although I had a baby only eighteen months old and could not be expected to give much time to the new undertaking.

"The following week nine of the women of Ottawa met at the home of Mrs. J. L. H. Long to talk over the proposed club. We discussed it from every angle and it was the consensus of opinion that some organization of

this character was very much needed in this village. Practically all of the women had been more or less active in literary work, but to follow a system and be bound to a constitution and by-laws was different.

"After due deliberation and a determined conviction on the part of the ladies that such an undertaking, with the earnest support of all, could be made a success, a motion was made by Mrs. Moore to organize ourselves into a club. This motion was unanimously carried and, since this was the centennial year of our independence as a nation, the club was christened the Ladies Centennial Book Club. I was chosen as the first president, but I do not recall the other early officers. We drafted a little constitution and by-laws, which was to govern our early activities. The charter members of this organization were as follows: Mrs. Long, Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Krause, Mrs. Morehead, Mrs. Kinder and Mrs. Laskey. Of this number, only three are left as active members of the club. Five have passed over the great divide. There are five living members, although two resigned their membership years ago, Mrs. Ewing, who resides in St. Louis, and Mrs. Adelia Allen, who still lives in Ottawa. The three remaining active members are Mrs. Kinder, Mrs. Paul and myself. There is a strong, mystic chord of memory stretching down through the years that have linked these three members together in close ties of friendship. One of the articles in the constitution that was drafted to govern us was that officers should be elected every three months. Another one of the rules was that the president should appoint a program committee each evening to arrange for a program for the next meeting; they would retire to another room and assign duties for the different members. This was very unsatisfactory inasmuch as it gave only one week to prepare our topics. I was re-elected twice, serving nine months in all.

"We frequently had charades, especially if we were having guests. We also had a 'budget box' and a budget reader was elected to deliver these articles as long as she held office. As time passed and we became better informed and in closer touch with parliamentary rules and regulations in club work, we decided to revise our constitution, and this was accomplished by a committee and adopted in October, 1877. We have revised the constitution once since that date and a few minor changes have been made at different times.

"The membership fee was fixed at three dollars and yearly dues of one dollar and fifty cents, payable in installments. I do not recall how long this state of affairs lasted, but we always had plenty of money in the treasury and practically no expenses. A scheme was now adopted to purchase books, as

there was no public library in Ottawa. A librarian was appointed and each member was allotted a certain number of books to read and if no report was made to the librarian in two weeks they were fined ten cents. At the close of the year a committee was appointed to arrange the books in lots of equal price and quality, in as many lots as there were members in the club, each lot being numbered, then slips of paper being made corresponding to the number of books. These slips were put into a box and each member drew a slip, thus drawing a lot of books which corresponded with the number on the slip. This system worked very well. As the membership of the club increased, we desired to branch out along other literary lines and took for our work the lecture field. Our first venture was with Susan B. Anthony, who was secured for a certain amount and all arrangements made for her entertainment, when her agent informed us that she had cancelled all her engagements on account of ill-health. Our failure in this venture only spurred us on and we secured Mary A. Livermore. This was a marked success, financially and socially. The lecture was held in the old opera house, now used for a business college, the admission charge being three dollars. The lecture was attended not only by the club members but by a gratifying representation of others in sympathy with our endeavors.

"During the first few years our programs were largely impromptu, but gradually, as the movement grew, greater thought was given to this feature and many pleasing diversions were created for the entertainment of the members, especially as the club boasted of several adepts who lent their skill to this end with gratifying success. Several playlets were given, among which were, "The Elevator Boy," a delightful little piece of comedy, and "Fing Wing," a Chinese playlet, with a judicial setting. In the former, Gordon Kinder, then a young lad, played the title role, the playlet being given at the Kinder residence. "Fing Wing" was given at the residence of Mrs. Krause, Mrs. Cover proving very entertaining in the role of "Fing Wing," with splendid fidelity to the Chinese dialect and mannerisms. This playlet consisted of a trial by jury, to which I acted the part of judge and this entailed the preparation of a long and laborious charge at the end of the trial. All the members took part in this playlet and, needless to say, passed a delightful time and one long to be remembered for its happy associations. On these occasions guests were invited, consisting, in the main, of husbands of the club members.

"We were all young then, thirty-nine years ago, filled with life and energy and a supreme desire to cultivate the social atmosphere of this community. It is on record that Mrs. Paul is the "mother" of the club, for her

only son was the first child born after our organization. Now we are grandmothers and it is gratifying to know that the seed sown thirty-nine years ago has borne fruit and that this work is being carried forward by the younger generation, who have caught the spirit and infused it with the newer and richer life of today.

"As the years have passed, new faces have entered our circle of twenty-five, among whom were Mrs. Gentry, Mrs. Cover, Mrs. Lentzy, Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. Meiley, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. Sprague, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. C. H. Rice, and the Misses Holtz, Pugh, Sweeney.

"The work of this club has still increased up to the present time and it is the strongest literary club in Ottawa. It is a member of the local and national federation of clubs and bears the distinction of being the second oldest literary club in the state.

"With the beginning of each year, a program is arranged, covering the entire year and each member can be prepared on their assigned subject. Officers serve for one year and new members are elected by ballot, in case there is an opening."

The present officers of the Centennial Club are as follows: Mrs. C. H. Rice, president; Mrs. S. F. DeFord, first vice-president; Mrs. D. M. Bailey, second vice-president; Mrs. C. O. Beardsley, recording secretary; Mrs. A. L. Paul, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. S. Ogan, treasurer; Mrs. F. P. Sprague, librarian; Cynthia Pugh, critic.

THE STUDY CLUB.

The Study Club of Ottawa was organized in 1908 with the following charter members: Mrs. Evan Davis, Mrs. Harry Allen, Mrs. M. P. Goetschius, Mrs. Sigmond Wise, Mrs. C. P. Godfrey, Mrs. G. W. Risser, Mrs. C. F. Madaris, Mrs. A. S. Johnson, Mrs. Charles Morrison, Mrs. Mary Reed, Mrs. E. L. Frey, Miss B. K. Krauss and Miss Zoe Kelly. The purpose of this club is for social and literary advantages, gained through united research and mutual assistance.

The present officers are as follows: Mrs. E. L. Frey, president; Mrs. Sigmond Wise, vice-president; Mrs. F. G. Kahle, secretary; Mrs. R. W. LaBaron, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Reed, librarian; Mrs. G. J. Keinath, critic. The present membership includes the following: Mrs. R. A. Alt, Mrs. E. L. Frey, Mrs. C. P. Godfrey, Mrs. H. E. Hirn, Mrs. G. J. Keinath, Mrs. F. G. Kahle, Mrs. R. W. LaBaron, Mrs. J. T. Maidlow, Mrs. Mary Reed, Mrs. L. C. Somanstine, Mrs. Sigmond Wise, Mrs. Herman Wise, Mrs. Roy East-

man, Mrs. Frank Donart, Mrs. M. P. Goetschius, Misses Lena Bailey, Florence Graham, Stella Kersting and Zoe Light.

FEDERATION OF CLUBS.

The Federation of Clubs of Ottawa was organized on November 21, 1913. The first officers were: Mrs. S. F. DeFord, president; Mrs. Mary Reed, first vice-president; Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, second vice-president; Altha Thrapp, third vice-president; Mrs. E. L. Fry, recording secretary; Mrs. Fred Zeller, corresponding secretary; Mrs. D. N. Powell, treasurer. The Federation of Clubs was organized for purely civic purposes and has been instrumental in establishing clean-up days in Ottawa. At the time of a terrible mine disaster in the southern part of the state, it sent a box of provisions to the stricken people. It also sent a box on the Christmas ship to Belgium. The Federation includes all the four clubs of the town, although membership in one of the clubs does not necessarily imply membership in the Federation. In addition, it includes members who are not affiliated with any of the four clubs of the town. Mrs. Fred Zeller was elected president at the last regular election of officers, but resigned in favor of the vice-president, Mrs. Frank P. Sprague. The other officers include the following: Mrs. Elma McDowell, second vice-president; Grace Ward, recording secretary; Zoe Light, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Frank Wilson, treasurer.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has been in Putnam for several years and has done some notable work in advancing the cause of temperance. The officers of the Union for 1915 are as follows: President, Mrs. Della Layport; vice-president, Mrs. Minnie Harris; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. M. Heidlebaugh; recording secretary, Mrs. Francis Beach; treasurer, Amelia Jones; chorister, Mrs. R. T. Evans; Y. P. B. secretary, Mrs. Bessie Kuntz; L. T. L. secretary, Mrs. Bessie Collar.

There are now seventeen local organizations in the county, as follows: Leipsie, 125 members; Continental, 121 members; Columbus Grove, 80 members; Gilboa, 56 members; Vaughnsville, 45 members; Ottawa River, 30 members; Ottawa, 40 members; Belmore, 21 members; Pandora, 18 members; Miller City, 16 members; Cloverdale, 15 members; Forest Grove, 15 members; Kahida, 13 members; Rushmore, 12 members; North Creek, 9 members; Dupont, 8 members; Mt. Zion, 5 members.

CHAPTER XII.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The present generation little realizes the conditions under which the early physicians of Putnam county had to labor. There were few roads and for several years these were nearly impassable for a great part of the year. This fact made it necessary for the doctors to do most of their traveling on horseback and the family physician, with his pill-bags swung over the back of his horse, was one of the most familiar, and at the same time one of the most welcome, sights to the early pioneers of the county. The swampy condition of the county was very conducive to fevers and ague and so common were these kindred complaints that the expression, "fevernague," came to be a household word. With the clearing up of the dense forests and the draining of the swamps, the dreaded malaria gradually disappeared and more fashionable diseases became prevalent.

The early physicians were not trained scientists, but they administered their few simple remedies in an efficient manner and were doubtless as successful with the diseases with which they had to cope as the physicians of today. There were few medical colleges before the Civil War, and very few of the early practitioners had an extensive knowledge of medicine. It was not until several years after the war that graduates of regular medical colleges located in the county, most of the early physicians receiving their training in the office of some local physician.

An effort has been made to collect a list of all the more important physicians of the county and in the appended list they have been arranged in the order in which they settled in the various towns of the county. There may be some who have been omitted, but the list contains those whose labors have made them remembered by a grateful people.

Ottawa—Calvin T. Pomeroy, C. M. Godfrey, George B. Fuller, E. K. Allen, J. K. Matthews, Clark, C. E. Beardsley, C. E. Tupper, Truman E. Paul, L. W. Moe, A. L. Paul, Frank Light, W. F. Reed, A. F. Sheibly, C. O. Beardsley, Eugene Tupper, Stevenson and O. J. Owens.

Kalida—Moses Lee, Andrew McClure, R. P. Cole, John T. Thrift, Robert Thrift, W. F. Reed, J. D. Watterson, C. F. Douglass, J. D. Siddall, Francis.

Leipsic—George Springer, J. C. McClung, Louisa M. Emery, J. E. Newman, W. H. Hickey, H. C. Ruhl, Reed, Burns.

Gilboa—Freeman H. Paul, Alford, L. W. Moe, Luce, Reynolds, A. C. Matthias, J. E. Newman, Ray, Black.

Columbus Grove—Turner, M. E. Olds, Frank Morris, Joseph Morris, John T. Thrift, George A. Light, Begg, Breckbill, Balmer, Wilcox, Cone, H. H. Sink.

Dupont—Eli Dimmock, Hixon, E. H. Bird, W. R. Stateler.

Continental—B. E. Walterson, B. D. Sparling, S. M. Allen, H. A. Lewis.

Glandorf—Herbert Huber, Borman, Northop, Harrod.

Pandora—Hiram Day, P. D. Bixell, H. A. Neiswander, Hilty.

Vaughnsville—P. L. Cole, McKinley, E. P. Limley.

Ottoville—Skinner, O. Hully, Wolfe.

Francona—Cooper, DeWeise.

West Leipsic—Joseph Emery, Samuel Emery.

Ft. Jennings—J. F. George, Stephens.

Miller City—L. E. Deuble.

Cloverdale—Stephan.

Belmore—Adrian.

Rushmore—J. H. Jenkins.

CHAPTER XIII.

COURTS AND LAWYERS.

The first term of court ever held in Putnam county convened on the 5th day of May, 1834, at the house of Abraham Sarber, in the town of Kalida, and the record says:

"Present—William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish, associate judges, who produced their commissions from his Excellency Robert Lucas, the governor of the state, endorsed by B. Hinkson, secretary of the state. The associate judges were sworn in taking the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and State, 'and to do equal justice to the poor and the rich, and to faithfully and impartially discharge their duties.'"

The court then appointed Daniel W. Gray as clerk pro tem., who gave a bond of ten thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of his duties, with Abraham Sarber, Samuel V. Ramsey and Thomas Gray as bondsmen. Amos Evans, Esq., was appointed prosecuting attorney. Abraham Sarber was appointed director for the town of Kalida. Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Myers were appointed county commissioners. Ferdinand C. Fitch was appointed county surveyor, to fill a vacancy. Samuel Myers, John M. Cochran, Isaac Owens, Arthur E. Martin, James Nicholas and Daniel Gray were appointed as examiners of common schools.

It was ordered by the court that two justices of the peace be allowed Blanchard and Sugar Creek townships and that the first Saturday in June, 1834, be appointed as the day for the election of said officers in said townships.

At a special session of the court, held August 18, 1834, convened for the purpose of appointing a sheriff and coroner to fill the vacancies now existing in those offices by reason of the omission to hold the election heretofore ordered by said court, it was ordered that William Cochran, Jr., be appointed sheriff and that William Turner be appointed as coroner.

TAVERN LICENSES.

It was ordered that Arthur E. Martin be granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence on Front street in the town of Kalida until the next

term of the court, and at which time Martin was ordered to produce the treasurer's receipt for five dollars, which was the amount to be paid per annum for keeping a tavern.

It was ordered that William Cochran be granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence in Jennings township when he produced the treasurer's receipt for the payment of five dollars for the ensuing year.

A special session of the court was held at the house of Sheldon Guthrie in the town of Kalida, March 20, 1835. The bond of William Turner, as coroner, was approved, the bondsmen being Adam Turner and McDaniel Osborn.

A regular session of the court was held at the court house in Kalida, in April, 1835. Present, George B. Holt, president, and William Cochran, Silas McClish and Henry Morris, associate judges.

FIRST GRAND JURY.

The following persons were called as grand jurors and entered upon the discharge of their duties: Joseph Teegarden, John Guffy, James Turner, Peter Buzzard, Henry Davis, James D. Wamsley, William Ramsey, Moses Sutton, Caleb Gaskill, Alexander Cochran, Obed Martin, John Hand, James Nicholas, Jr., McDaniel Osborne and Benjamin Clevenger. All answered to their names, except Joseph Teegarden, Henry Davis, Alex Cochran and James Nicholas, Jr., in whose places the sheriff returned from the bystanders the following: Isaac McCracken, Robert McCracken, John Lisk, and John Ridenour. Benjamin Clevenger was appointed foreman. Court adjourned until the next morning.

Mr. Phillips was granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence in Kalida, on producing satisfactory evidence to the court that lawful notice of his intention had been given, and that he sustains a good moral character, that he is a suitable man, and is provided with suitable accommodations.

FIRST CASE IN COUNTY COURT.

The first case which came up before the court was that of Joshua Wagonseiler vs. Jacob Dewees, in chancery. It was ordered that a notice in this case be published for four weeks in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a newspaper published in Philadelphia, and that a copy of this notice be posted on the door of the court house for four months previous to the next term of court.

It was ordered that three justices of the peace be allowed to the newly

organized townships, making the number as follows: Monroe, one; Riley, two; Ottawa, two, and Greensburg, one, and that there be allowed one for Union township. It was further ordered that elections be held on the 16th day of May, for these justices of the peace.

Court again convened in April, 1835. Isaac McHenry, aged seventy-two years, a resident of this county, came into court and made a declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 11, 1832, granting pensions to soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and his declaration was certified to the war department.

It was ordered that Sheldon Guthrie, James Taylor, F. C. Fitch, Richard Lee and Moses Lee be appointed as school examiners.

The grand jury came into court and presented six indictments. Of the six indictments, four were for selling spirits without license.

ATTORNEYS.

There is no official record of the many attorneys who have practiced in Putnam county and it has been difficult to compile a list of the lawyers who have practiced at various times in the county. In the following compilation, they are listed by towns, and an effort has been made to give them in the order in which they settled in the town. Many of them, of course, began practicing in one town and later moved to another town, and especially is this true of the early lawyers of Kalida. Practically all of the attorneys of Kalida moved to Ottawa when the county seat was moved to the latter place in the latter part of the sixties.

Ottawa—J. B. Woodruff, T. J. Logan, D. I. Brown, Richard Lameson, Charles A. Wright, Azariah Budd, Day Pugh, James R. Linn, James Anderson, Eli Holmes, Josiah Gallup, C. J. Swan, H. F. Knowles, John Buchanan, Stansbury Sutton, Joseph Foll, J. J. Moore, W. C. G. Krauss, Christian Barr, R. W. Barton, Alexander Moore, Martin Knupp, A. L. Thomas, A. V. Watts, George H. Knupp, J. S. Ogan, W. H. Kinder, James T. Lentzy, Hugh McClure, J. M. Sheets, John P. Bailey, D. C. Long, L. E. Holtz, George Fritz, E. R. Eastman, Charles Troyer, James Bethard, J. P. Leasure, D. M. Bailey, D. N. Powell, J. H. Straman, G. W. Risser, John E. Todd, W. W. Sutton, W. H. Handy, Guy C. Long, B. A. Unverferth, C. S. Malone, Hiram Summers, Albert H. Straman, Edward F. Weiser, J. W. Smith, Frank Firman, C. W. Fawcett, Ralph Pugh, Gilson Moore, B. L. Griffith, W. H. Leete, Benjamin Griffith and L. E. Eastman.

Kalida—F. H. Gillette, A. A. Skinner, W. L. Berge, John Norris, J. M.

Palmer, Benjamin Metcalf, James McKenzie, J. J. Ackerman, W. H. Ball, A. Monroe and Charles Veach. Veach is the only attorney now practicing in Kalida.

Columbus Grove—N. W. Ogan, Elam Day, Sidney Sanders, W. C. Tingle, Guy Killen, H. S. Core, Chester C. Rimer and N. E. Mallahan.

Continental—A. J. McClure, Charles Varner, E. L. Hartman and J. C. Madden.

The following is a list of the judges of various courts from the organization of the county, in 1834, up to the present time:

ASSOCIATE JUDGES.

Previous to 1834, or until the county was organized, this county had no distinctive judges, as the territory was attached to Williams county for judicial purposes.

In 1834 the first associate judges were elected and the bench consisted of the following persons: William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish. These judges served until the year 1845. Silas McClish was elected as presiding judge in 1842.

In 1845, George Skinner and Jonathan Sackett were elected as associate judges and served until 1853, when a new state constitution went into effect.

COMMON PLEAS JUDGES.

The court of common pleas was created in 1853 by the enactment of the new constitution. The following have served the county in that capacity: 1853-57, John M. Palmer; 1857-58, M. C. Whiteley; 1858-65, Benjamin F. Metcalf (died in office); 1865, O. W. Rose (served eight months; died in office); 1865-1878, James McKenzie; 1878-79, Charles Hughes (district changed in this year); 1879-1885, John J. Moore; 1885-04, W. H. Handy; 1894-00, John M. Sheets; 1898-06, Michael Donnelly (resigned to become member of circuit court of the district); 1906, J. S. Ogin (served eight months to fill vacancy); 1906-20, John P. Bailey.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES.

The circuit courts were created in 1884 and Putnam county was placed in the third judicial district, comprising sixteen counties. In 1884, the following judges were elected: Thomas Bier, of Crawford county, for term of

two years; John J. Moore, of Putnam, for term of four years; Henry W. Seney, of Hardin county, for term of six years; 1892, James H. Day, of Mercer county, elected for six years; 1894, James L. Price, of Allen county, elected for six years; 1896, Caleb B. Morris, of Marion county, elected for six years; 1896, John C. Royer, of Fulton county, appointed to fill vacancy of Seney; 1904, Silas E. Hurin, of Hancock county, elected for six years; 1906-15, Michael Donnelly, of Henry county; 1908-20, Walter H. Kinder, of Hancock county; 1910-16, Phil M. Crow, of Hardin county; 1915, T. T. Ansberry, appointed to succeed Donnelly. In 1913 the circuit court became the appellate court.

ATTORNEYS OF PUTNAM COUNTY IN 1915.

Ottawa—D. M. Bailey, E. R. Eastman, Leroy Eastman, George Fritz, C. W. Fawcett, Benjamin Griffiths, W. H. Handy, J. P. Leasure, J. J. Moore, J. S. Ogan, D. N. Powell, H. M. Summers, J. W. Smith, J. H. Straman, Albert Straman, Benjamin Unverferth, A. V. Watts and Edward Weiser.

Leipsic—A. A. Slaybaugh and W. S. Stevenson.

Columbus Grove—Harry Core and C. C. Rimer.

Continental—J. C. Madden, Charles Varner and E. L. Hartman.

Kalida—Charles Veach.

CHAPTER XIV.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

The public schools of Putnam county have gone through a marked change from the beginning to the present time. The first definite organization which the schools had was "two mile districts." The townships were surveyed and laid out in two-mile-square districts. These districts were self-governing, independent bodies. The citizens of these districts met at the school house and elected the school board, which consisted of three directors. The directors made their own tax levy, employed their own teachers and were the head of the school systems in the several districts. The directors made their report to the county auditor and were responsible to him alone. They were their own treasurer and dispensed the school funds themselves.

The next change came a short time later. The citizens still elected their three directors as before, but one of these directors was chosen as the president of the two-mile-square district, while the other two were merely sub-directors. The former became a member of the township board of education, which elected the teachers and made the tax levy. The duty invested in the sub-directors was merely to suggest and recommend teachers and other matters, but having no immediate voice in the business; but the township board was the official school body and transacted all of the important business. They made their report to the county auditor as before.

The next change came in 1900, when the township board was elected at large by the voters, regardless of districts, and this board consisted of only five members. This board was the official organ of the school system of the county, electing the teachers, levying the taxes and buying fuel, etc. There was still one sub-director. He was elected by the local people from each district and could recommend and make suggestions, and also had the care of the building.

Under the old law for twenty years back, township supervision was optional. In this system the township board hired their supervisor, but this was entirely optional. Riley township was the only one in the county having township supervision. Another plan was where a union of townships could be effected if desired. An example of this system in the county was the

union of Liberty and Van Buren townships. The optional supervision law ran up to the present code, when supervision was made mandatory.

The next change came in 1913, which dispensed with the sub-director, taking the school government more and more out of the hands of the people. The effort all through this change of system has been to make the county the strong unit, the desire being to make the county count for more than the township. The powers which were formerly delegated to the township are now delegated to the county. This strong basic influence, by way of explanation, came from the systems in vogue in Virginia and were copied by the law-makers of Ohio from that state.

This latter change, which went into effect May 22, 1913, provides that the county board of education, which is the chief body, must be elected by the presidents of the existing school boards of the township. In case there are special districts in a township, the presidents of these several school boards meet and decide who shall cast the vote for the township in the county board election. Each township is entitled to only one vote. The county board of education is made up of five members.

The first meeting, which was a special session as provided by this law, was held on the third Saturday of July, 1913. The regular meetings are to be held the third Saturday in March, at which meeting the regular business is disposed of. Other regular meetings are to be held every two months, although a special meeting can be called between regular meetings.

The members of the county board of education are elected regularly for a term of five years, one retiring each year and a new member is elected. These members must be from different districts. At the first election, which was held on June 2, 1914, the following were elected to serve on the board of education for Putnam county. In order that the rotating system, whereby one new member was elected each year, could be brought into effect, at the first election the members were elected for a term of from one to five years as follows: B. H. Herringhaus, one year term, district No. 12; Harry Reese, two year term, district No. 6; Dr. C. F. Douglas, three year term, district No. 8; Frank Giesken, four year term, district No. 3; W. P. Frantz, five year term, district No. 1.

This board met in regular session on June 13, 1914, at which time George J. Keinath was elected as the first county superintendent, for a term of two years. The duties of the superintendent, besides the regular oversight of the schools, are to act as secretary of the county board of education and also act as executive officer of the board, with the privilege of discussion and

making suggestions, but not the power of voting. The superintendent is elected for a term of from one to three years, as the board decides.

The county board of education divides the county into supervision districts. Each district contains one or more villages or rural districts and no district shall have more than sixty teachers or less than twenty. If there are three or more boards in a district, the presidents of the boards elect the district superintendent. If only two boards in a district, they all have a vote.

The county board of education met on August 4, 1914, and divided Putnam county into twelve supervision districts. Following is a table showing the supervision districts, name of the district superintendent, number of teachers in each supervision district and number of teachers in each local district:

District, name of superintendent; local districts and number of teachers in each, and total number of teachers in each supervision district follow:

No. 1—Northeast supervision district, W. W. Dibble, superintendent. Liberty township, 9 teachers; Van Buren township, 7; Blanchard township, 12; Gilboa village, 2; Belmore village, 4; total, 34.

No. 2—Northwest supervision district, J. E. Hathorn, superintendent. Palmer township, 8 teachers; Monroe township, 7; Perry township, 8; Miller City village, 3; Hartsburg Special, 2; Dupont village, 3; Cloverdale, village, 3; total, 34.

No. 3—Center supervision district, H. J. Benning, superintendent. Ottawa township, 5 teachers; Greensburg township, 7; Glandorf village, 6; Ottawa and Pleasant special, 1; Hoffman special, 1; "Plum Creek" Center, 1; B. Fortman special, 1; Theodore Fortman special, 1; Liberty special, 1; New England special, 1; total, 25.

No. 4—Southeast district, J. A. Smith, superintendent. Riley township, 18 teachers; Pleasant township, 9; total, 27.

No. 5—Southwest supervision district, F. J. Uhrich, superintendent. Monterey township, 2 teachers; Jackson township, 5; Ottoville village, 7; Monterey second special, 2; Jackson special, 1; total, 17.

No. 6—Sugar Creek district, Perry Ford, superintendent. Sugar Creek township, 13 teachers; total, 13.

No. 7—Jennings supervision district, Frank A. Derck, superintendent. Jennings township, 5 teachers; Ft. Jennings village, 3; Rushmore special, 2; total, 10.

No. 8—Kalida supervision district, H. M. Jay, superintendent. Kalida

village, 6 teachers; Jack Oak special, 1; Mud Ridge special, 1; Union township, 1; total, 9.

No. 9—Columbus Grove supervision district, W. E. Stevens, superintendent. Columbus Grove village, 13 teachers; total, 13.

No. 10—Continental, J. H. Young, superintendent. Continental village, 10 teachers; total, 10.

No. 11—Leipsic, A. C. Alleshouse, superintendent. Leipsic village, 11 teachers; total, 11.

No. 12—Ottawa, C. J. Holzhauer, superintendent. Ottawa village, 11 teachers; total, 11.

The law has been amended, which will make a change in these districts in the near future.

COLUMBUS GROVE SCHOOLS.

In 1842 two school districts were created in Pleasant township. The Westerley district, with small portions of other townships became special district No. 2. Rev. William McGookin was the first teacher. From time to time various sub-districts were formed from territory detached from this district, leaving what is now known as Columbus Grove special district. The first school house, a log structure, was located on the north side of High street, near the site of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. The second, a frame building, was erected on the same location and when the railroad was built it was purchased by the company, moved to their station grounds and used for a depot. The third building, a two-story frame, erected near the present school grounds, is still standing, being used for a barn. The next school building was first erected as a six-room structure and later was enlarged to twelve rooms.

The present building was erected in the year 1909 and is considered as one of the best equipped for fire protection in the state. It has seventeen rooms, a library, teachers' rest room, and superintendent's office, making it most convenient and commodious for both teachers and pupils and, with the modern equipment, makes it one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the county.

The teachers following Reverend McGookin in the first building were, Joseph Lippincot, Dr. H. E. White, Elizabeth Stewart (Mrs. N. H. Bagley), Dr. J. A. Newell, John Cottner, David McCurdy, Phillip Anderson and J. B. Jones. Elizabeth Begg (Mrs. George Morris), J. B. Sprague and C. A. McDowell taught in the second building. J. W. Powell, David Wisterman,

James Anderson, Mary Begg (Mrs. F. M. Cheadle) and E. R. Hogle taught in the third building. J. H. Bowman and W. O. Brown taught in the third building, completing the list to 1875.

In 1875 the classes were graded and a course of study was adopted, the first class graduating in 1878. There have been over two hundred and fifty graduates from the high school, and there are fourteen in the present graduating class. At present there are three hundred and fifteen enrolled in the grades and one hundred and seven in the high school. Nine teachers are employed in the grades and four in the high school. Superintendent W. E. Stevens, who is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, has served the school since 1910 and has been employed for two years longer. The principal, F. W. Sexton, is a graduate of Wooster University.

Following are the superintendents since 1875: J. F. Jones, September, 1875-May, 1878; W. L. Brothers, September, 1878-May, 1879; E. T. Fairchild, September, 1879-May, 1883; F. C. Knoff, September, 1883-May, 1885; E. Ward, September, 1885-May, 1891; A. L. Belch, September, 1891-May, 1898; H. D. Grindle, September, 1898-May, 1904; W. E. Kershner, September, 1904-May, 1905; James T. Begg, September, 1905-May, 1910; W. E. Stevens, September, 1910, to the present.

VAUGHNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.

Thirty-five years ago there were nine school districts in Sugar Creek township, with three school directors to each district. This is the first history of the schools which can be gathered. This township supervision, which began in 1902, lasted thirteen years.

Vaughnsville became a first-grade high school in 1911. Although this was not the beginning of the school system there, as they had held school for several years in different buildings in the town, still they had no high school building and were not classed as first grade. The first high school was held in the township house in 1901.

The present beautiful and modern building was erected in 1908 and marked the real entry of Vaughnsville into the limelight as an educational center. The building was finished at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and the following school board deserves some praise for its success: J. M. Gardner, president; M. M. Auchmuty, clerk; L. N. Parker, C. R. Smith and Harry Reese, directors.

The following have served as superintendents: John Fink, E. W. Greene, Victor Perry and Perry Ford. Forty five young men and women

have been sent out into the world with a finished high school education since it became a first-grade high school, four years ago. The present enrollment numbers sixty-eight. There are fifteen in the 1915 graduating class.

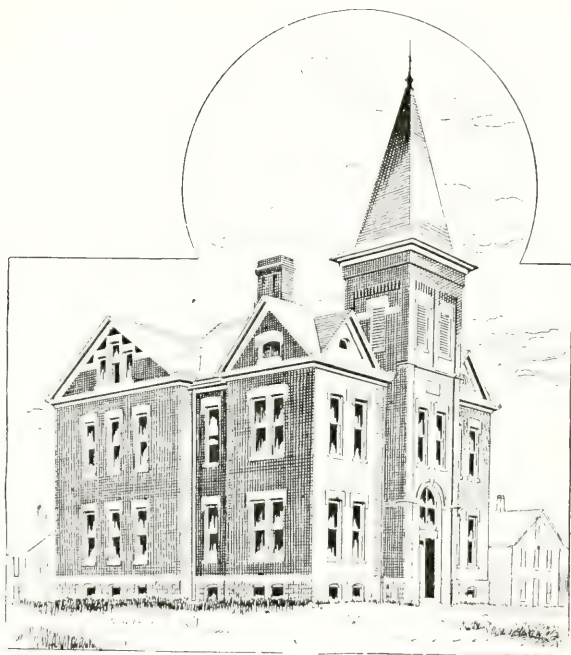
The present school board consists of the following: Harry Reese, president; O. T. McBride, J. L. Thomas, John Stevens and John Clevenger, directors. The district schools were consolidated this year. The high school students are brought to Vaughnsville and the grade pupils are sent to Rimer. This necessitated the erection of a new school building at Rimer, at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. An addition is also being built to the Vaughnsville school building, at a cost of eleven thousand dollars, which doubles the capacity of the school.

CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

Through the will of John Crawfis, a wealthy and distinguished citizen of Blanchard township, the citizens of Putnam county were afforded a means of instituting a high school with the object of affording an avenue to a higher education by the way of our district schools. Mr. Crawfis died in the year 1880 and bequeathed to Blanchard township the splendid sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to be used in the erection of a college. This proved to be the greatest gift which the citizens of Putnam county could hope for, and was the real start of the splendid school systems in this county.

The work on this handsome structure was begun in the year 1888. The site was in the southeastern portion of section 20, Blanchard township, located on the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western railroad. The building was a two-story brick structure, erected at a cost of eleven thousand dollars and christened Crawfis College in honor of the donor of this noble gift, who made its erection possible. The campus is planted in shade trees and presents a very pretty appearance. During the year following, 1889, two dormitories were built, at a cost of two thousand and eighty-seven dollars, making one of the most complete public schools in the state and furnishing accommodations for higher education to the students of this community.

The building committee was composed of A. C. Hall, N. Conine and B. O. Robinson. The architect, E. Zoll, of Findlay, drew up the plans for the building, and A. Faeth, of Delphos, Ohio, had the contract. Prof. I. L. Harmon served as the first superintendent, from 1888 to 1891; Prof. Job Hill, from 1891-92; Prof. J. T. Fairchild, Prof. L. S. Lafferty, from 1892-94; Prof. B. J. Beach, from 1894-97; Prof. W. S. Wallen; Prof. John



CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

Wallen; Prof. John Hathorn, and Prof. W. W. Dibble, who is still head of the school.

The following teachers have assisted: George W. Risser, O. C. Wright, commercial department; Florence B. McClure, language; Mrs. O. C. Wright, elocution, with Charles Harbaugh, assistant; B. F. Finkle, mathematics; Mary Banfield, shorthand and typewriting; J. Krider, penmanship; Charlotte Rice, common branches; A. V. Mueller, German; C. C. Miller, assistant in the normal institute; Etta Compton, pianist; Blanche Adams, O. V. Todd and Emma Everett, assistants in the common branches; L. D. Hook, penmanship; G. R. Miller and J. C. Light, common branches; Bessie Ashbaugh, elocution; Flora McCray, pianist; Professor Wisley, telegraphy; N. O. Harmon, violin; Mrs. Lafferty, Katherine Oren, Captolia Oren, Ida Barto, Phoebe Oren, common branches, and Mr. Black, penmanship.

The school has had a flourishing career under the able management of the above superintendents and competent assistants. The school was changed to a first-grade high school on December 8, 1908, and at present is under district supervision. W. W. Dibble, the present superintendent, deserves much of the praise for the excellent status of the school and the achievements which have been the reward of his efforts.

The girls' dormitory was destroyed by fire, but was soon replaced by a new one, which is very commodious and modern.

The school is on a firm basis, with well-equipped laboratories, a splendid library, including encyclopedias, dictionaries and many works of standard authors. The present corps of teachers are George R. Miller, principal; Janet Rower, teacher of languages; T. I. Curtis, teacher of science. The enrollment at present embraces thirty-two pupils. This year's graduating class included four members.

LEIPSIC HIGH SCHOOL.

The Leipsic public school was organized in 1867, with Dr. J. C. McClung as principal, and had an enrollment of thirty-four pupils. In 1878 a commodious school building was erected, which accommodated the children of this village.

In 1880 it had reached the grade entitling it to a position of a high school. The growth of the school was so rapid, along with the increase in the population of the town, and reached such proportions that the building was inadequate to accommodate all of the students. The former structure was enlarged with an addition, and this furnished ample room for the mem-

bers of the school until the present structure was built, in 1908, at a cost of thirty-seven thousand dollars. This school building is modern and up-to-date in every respect, and, in addition to class rooms, superintendent's office, library, etc., it has an auditorium with a seating capacity of six hundred and twenty, large stage, and a very great asset, not only for the school to be proud of, but also the townspeople.

In 1883 the high school, under Supt. A. B. Spach, sent forth its first graduate, William H. Burkholder. Up to the present time two hundred and thirty-four have received certificates of graduation, and the present class numbers twenty-seven. The steady increase in the number of graduates is in marked contrast to the growth of the school. In the thirty-two years of its existence it has grown from a third-grade to a first-grade high school, from a few students to an enrollment of approximately four hundred at present. A chemistry course was added in 1914; also a phonograph has been installed for marching music. The school is active in athletics, and especially active along lines of literary societies. The Emersonian and Websterian societies are rival organizations and each year hold a contest in reading, debating and oratory, for a silver cup.

There are four teachers in the high school and eight in the grades. Following is a list of the superintendents since 1883: A. B. Spach, 1883-86; I. L. Harmon, 1886-89; L. S. Lafferty, 1889-91; C. M. Lewis, 1891-97; C. J. Luxmore, 1897-98; W. S. Sackett, 1898-1908; H. A. Lind, 1908-13; A. C. Alleshouse, 1913 to the present. Mr. Alleshouse has been re-employed for two years longer. He has Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. The principal, P. J. Foltz, is a graduate of Defiance College.

PANDORA HIGH SCHOOL.

The beginning of the school system in Riley township dates back to 1836-37, when the first school building in the township was erected on the old Grismore farm. Mr. Wilson bears the distinction of being the first teacher to lead the young pupils in the paths of knowledge. The next school was located on the old Light farm, in the western part of the township, but the teachers of this school can not be ascertained.

The early history of the schools of this township cannot be carried out in full, but the present status and rank of the Pandora high school far offsets this discrepancy. The early growth of the schools was rather slow, but this was to spring forth in ample time and strengthen the school sys-

tems of the present time. Pandora high school has the distinction of being the only township high school in Ohio which is on the accredited list of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The honor of producing the first rural high school in this state to be so highly ranked belongs to Supt. J. A. Smith, of Pandora.

The first high school buidng was erected in 1895, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. This was a very modern structure at that time and served the students of this section for fifteen years, but, owing to the increased size of the enrollment, it was not deemed commodious enough to accommodate the increase in the school.

The present beautiful edifice was erected in 1910, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. This building is complete in every detail and affords an excellent avenue for education to the students of this locality. Superintendent Smith has not been satisfied to rest on the laurels which this building has made possible, but has been active in installing new and modern devices of learning from time to time. It has every teaching device known to the profession, from the Babcock milk tester and metronome to compound microscopes and stereopticon, high school and alumni record systems, teacher-parent report-card system, and, in 1915, manual training and domestic science were added to the curriculum of the school. On the social side, it has the Adelpian, Browning, Philomathean and Schiller literary societies, the John Alden Agricultural Society for the boys, and the Priscilla Domestic Arts Society for the girls. It has a representative in the Northwestern oratorical contest, is a member of the Northwestern Athletic Association, and exhibited at both the Putnam county and Ohio state fairs.

The first graduate from the Pandora high school was Mary Davy, in 1898. Since that time it has graduated more than two hundred and seventy-five, and the present graduating class includes thirty-six members. The corps of teachers in the grades at present numbers thirteen, with an enrollment of four hundred pupils. There are seven teachers in the high school, with an attendance of one hundred and twenty-five.

Prof. J. A. Smith, as was previously mentioned, is the present superintendent, with J. R. Schutz as the principal of the high school. Both of these men have had extensive training and many years of successful experience to qualify them for this high position. At present Superintendent Smith is one of the instructors of the Wooster University Summer School, teaching agriculture. With such men at the helm, it is certain that the schools will continue to make advances in the lines of education.

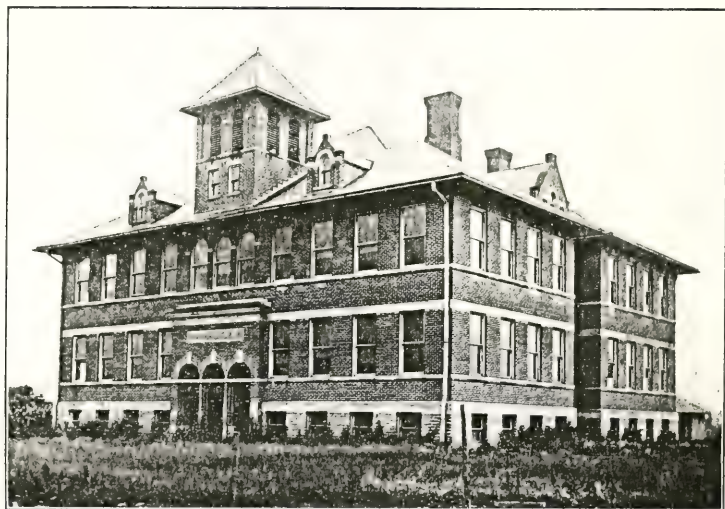
The superintendents who have served this school from 1895 to the

present time are: W. S. Sackett, 1895-98; P. D. Amstutz, 1898-1907; C. D. Steiner, 1907-10; J. A. Smith, 1910 to the present time.

OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL.

The history of the schools and school system of Ottawa dates back to about 1834. The schools passed through the usual vicissitudes which mark the beginning of all early institutions of learning, having for several years only one school. About the year 1862 two teachers were employed, as the enrollment had become too large for one to manage. In 1868 the West Union school building was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars and this marked the real beginning of the advanced education in this village. Part of the credit for the organization and firm basis upon which it was established is due Prof. A. M. Brown. Prof. J. Lee Gamble succeeded Professor Brown as superintendent and served in that capacity for one year. In the fall of 1871 S. F. DeFord was employed as superintendent and four teachers were employed. The course of study was revised and enlarged. The following subjects were added to the curriculum: Chemistry, trigonometry, surveying, geology, zoology, mental philosophy and logic. The first graduating class consisted of six members and was graduated in 1873. There was a graduating class each succeeding year except 1875 and 1877. S. F. DeFord served as superintendent from 1871 to 1886.

In 1878 the school board appointed Hon. C. J. Swan and Dr. C. E. Tupper to assist the superintendent in revising the course of study. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted and consisted of the following requirements: A grade of eighty per cent must be made in every branch. The full English branches must be completed; Latin was made elective and, in addition, honors were conferred. The first honors were given for the highest average per cent upon the branches studied and consisted of the valedictory address. The second consisted of the salutatory address. Following are the years and students upon whom the honors were conferred from 1873 to 1891, no honors being given after the latter date: 1873—Julia Allen, first; Ralph Pugh, second. 1874—Gertie A. Paul, first; Mary E. Holtz, second. 1876—Laura E. Holtz, first; C. J. Tupper, second. 1878—Nellie F. Tupper, first; Nettie Monroe, second. 1879—Delia Shoup, first; W. W. Sutton, second. 1880—Frank Light, first; Jennie Pugh, second. 1881—E. Bruce McGreevy, first; Cal. P. Godfrey, second. 1882—Lettie Tupper, first; Maurice Goetschius, second. 1883—Julia Knowles, first; Charles Schierloh, second. 1884—Leroy A. Ellis, first; Anna Hayes, second.



KALIDA HIGH SCHOOL.



ABRAM BALGIMAN, PIONEER AT LEIPSIC



LEIPSIC PUBLIC SCHOOL.

1885—Winnie Light, first; Mary Beckman, second. 1886—W. E. Clippinger. 1887—Florence McClure, first; Mary Carr, second. 1888—Bertha Kraus, first; Charlotte Rice, second. 1889—Olive Nicewarner, first; Will A. Kelly, second. 1890—Grace Ward, first; Howard B. Row, second. 1891—Guy P. Long, first; John H. Lemkuhle, second.

Prof. S. F. DeFord was instrumental in the collection of different material and equipment for the use of the school. He collected, classified and labeled over one thousand five hundred mineral specimens, thus making an invaluable aid to the study of mineralogy, and likewise geology. He also, by the direction of the school board, purchased about one thousand dollars worth of philosophical, physiological, chemical, mathematical and geographical apparatus and charts, thus equipping the school thoroughly for all the ordinary demands of experiment and demonstration.

The magnificent East school building, which serves as the high school at the present time, was erected at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars and at the time of its completion was one of the best structures for its size in the state. It was a marked example of the deep and abiding interest which the people of this village have in the cause of education. During the winter of 1894-95 Albert M. Austin, the high school teacher, inaugurated and put into active practical operation a gymnasium, using the entire fourth story of the new building for that purpose. Since that time Ottawa high school athletes have ranked among the best of the state and the athletic teams have always been ranked with the best in this part of the state.

Superintendents who have served since 1886 are: C. C. Miller, to 1890; J. M. Hall, 1890-91; D. W. Taussig, 1891-93; George E. Nelson, 1893-95. J. H. Secrest, J. W. Smith, G. J. Keinath, and C. F. Holzhauer, the present superintendent, who has had charge of the schools for three years. Professor Holzhauer is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, class of 1907, and under his able leadership the advancement of the school has been even more marked than in the past. Professor Holzhauer is assisted by G. D. Swartzel, who is a graduate of Otterbein University.

The schools at present have an able corps of eleven teachers, with an enrollment of three hundred and thirty pupils. The graduating class numbered fifteen.

OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI.

The first class graduated from the Ottawa high school in 1873, and since that time there have been graduates every year except two, 1875 and 1877. The complete list of graduates from 1873 to 1915 is as follows:

1873—Jennie (Long) Brotherton, Emma (McBride) Mann, Zoe (Godfrey) Ogle, Ella Swayze, Mattie (Slauson) Tupper, Ella (Brown) Hoover, Julia (Allen) Brownfield, Ralph Pugh.

1874—Etta Knowles, Gertrude (Paul) Paul, Mary (Rollins) Kinder, Mary (Holtz) Cox.

1876—Laura (Holtz) Clark-Day, Charles G. Tupper.

1878—Celia McBride, Clara (McBride) Light, Nettie (Monroe) Weaver, Charles L. H. Long, Alice (Knowles) Wyatt, Helen (Tupper) Kinder.

1879—Tupper Nicewander, Nevada (Shaffer) Gill, Nettie Williams, Delia (Shoup) Tupper, Frances (Gallup) Row, Lizzie (McGreevy) Rampe, W. W. Sutton.

1880—Frank Light, W. A. Kober, May Conrady, Lillian (Gallup) Haskell, Ella Clohosey, Jean (Pugh) Vale.

1881—C. P. Godfrey, Mattie (Taylor) Greer, T. L'H. Long, Dora (Ewing) Swift, Bruce McGreevy.

1882—C. O. Beardsley, M. P. Goetschius, Mary (Tupper) Scriver.

1883—Charles Schierloh, Julia Knowles, Sarah Knowles.

1884—Anna (Hayes) Flemming, Jean (Gallup) Day, Etta (Millman) Bierry, Emma (Kelly) Godfrey, Leroy A. Ellis, Ed. McCoy, Clark H. Rice.

1885—B. F. Deniston, W. S. Zeller, Frank Ewing, Ed. Beardsley, Mary (Beckman) Klotz, Winnie Light, Agnes (Long) Creveling, Lizzie Frey, Laura (Brooks) Hoskinson, Lizzie (DeFord) Haag-Stevens.

1886—Mary F. Stout, Carrie (Light) Ackerman, Emma (Rowe) Pope, Lizzie (Birkmeier) Beardsley, Luella Allen, Ida (Goetschius) Rice, Dora (Flint) Agner, C. B. Ward, W. E. Clippenger, E. C. Tupper.

1887—Mott Ewing, Joel Spiker, C. G. Olney, Chester Gallbreath, Lizzie (Brockman) Ingleright, May (Carr) Hahn, Florence McClure.

1888—Zella D. (Kinder) Spencer, Bertha K. Krauss, Cora (Bennett) Bogart-Drown, Mazie (Hauck) Frey, Ella (Hauck) Swink, Charlotte Rice, W. W. Ward, Guy Godfrey.

1889—William A. Kelly, C. E. Place, C. D. Beardsley, Myrtle (Light) Huddle, Iva (Hamden) Cummer, Cora Barr, Mary (Gallbreath) Hathaway, Mable (Wert) Hibbitts, Maude Merkle, Alice Nicewarner, Lida (Powell) Hartshorn, Josephine (Allen) Birkmeier.

1890—Laura Craig, Nannie (Ludwig) Ewing, Grace Ward, Junie Wright, Kathryn Rice, Essie Hathaway, Benjamin Unverferth, Howard Row, Leroy Day.

1891—Lillian (Eastman) Wolf, Bertha Loy, John Lehmkuhle, Guy P. Long, Charles G. Clippenger.

1892—John Goshing, John T. DeFord, Marguerite Ford, Mary Shondel, Nora (Light) Talbot, Harriet Gallup, Carrie (Brown) Altenburg, Marie Zeller, Carrie (Loy) Tupper.

1893—Lucy Bennett, Emma Knupp, Theodore Ludwig, Helen Sherrick, Francis Shaw, Edna Hathaway, Herman Schmitschulte.

1894—Blanche Knupp, Anna Straman, Della Wightman.

1895—Amy (Light) Van Cleve, Zoe (Kelly) Frederick, Lenore (Rice) Smith, Zoe (Brown) Coffman, Ora (Eastman) Turner, Emma (Brown) Allen, Esther (Hornaday) Davis, Alice (Hoskinson) Ward.

1896—Clara Meyer, Effa (Barr) Klay, Gertrude (Paul) Wilson, Violet Sackett, Anna Wellens, Emma (Fipp) Preisendorfer.

1897—Zoe Hoskinson, Meda (Williams) Haskell, Abbie (Sackett) Smith, Grace Pope.

1898—Mary (Reed) Ramey, Mary Gerdeman, Zoe Light, Erma (Leader) Emminegger, Bess Wilson, Clara (Unkenholtz) Buckwalder, Maude (Eastman) Murbach, Ada (Ernest) Butler, Velma (Fifer) Goodlove, Nelle (Overbeck) Secrest, Frona Brinkman, Ethel (McAdow) Holding, Susan (DeFord) Hunter, Isiah Hamden, Charles Justice, Merl Frick, Charles Krieger, Louis Leopold, Russel Howard, Charles Barr.

1899—Florence Graham, C. Guido Spencer, Edward Krauss, Norman Haskell, Nelle Cartwright, Laura Lehmkuhle, Emma Brinkman, Mary (McChure) Keinath, Laura (Kraft) Ferrall, William Ferrall, Effie Arnold, Harry Greer, Grace (Cover) Spencer, Mary Fipp, Kate (Matthews) Sherwood, Leslie (Ogle) Alt, Nora Rampe, Johanna Ruple, Nelle Sheets, Clyde Tupper.

1900—Jane (Rothman) Foote, Clara (Risser) Harman, Ida Miller, Laura (Kracht) Preisendorfer, Lulu Fifer, Lucy Brinkman, Leo Harman, Jackson Ogle, Ray Howard, Murray Haskell.

1901—Ethel (Ackerman) Crawfis, Besse (Bailey) Sherman, Mary Brinkel, Zoe (Burgess) Cline, Della Carr, Edith Cover, Besse (Graham) Justice, Pearl Hansel, Kathryn (Kraft) Miller, Helen McAdow, Zoe Matthews, Lillian Rampe, Nellie Reed, Katherine Straman, Etha Sutton, Altha Thrapp, Lena Wilson, Rudolph Alt, Clarence Bailey, Guy Cartwright, Ivan Eastman, Earl Holding, Ernest Leader.

1902—Kate (Frey) Altschul, Eva (Hipkins) Schaefer, Mary Tupper, Zoe Snider, Ethel (Eastman) Hixon, Homer Garwood.

1903—Owen Agner, Halcie Bailey, Helen (Brown) Sell, Earl Crawfis,

Lizzie Deck, George Frick, Lena Harmon, Lucy Haskell, Ruth Kemmer, Blanche (Laihe) Ellis, Rhea McGreevy, Myrtle (Ogan) Shaw, Coletta Rothman, Reid Jenkins.

1904—Frank Agner, Leon (Carr) Kerr, Alex Frey, Marguerite Hipkins, Florence Mallahan, Lucy (Poast) Agner, Emma Rower, Bessie Seitz, Nellie Stoffer, Sylvan Swink.

1905—Roy Eastman, George Bailey, Allan Harrison Graham, Hazel Pierman, Ede Brinkel, Mary Schmitschulte, Sadie Wilkins, Alice Todd, Della Carr, Ruth McAdow.

1906—Earl Combs, Harry I. Kahle, J. E. Harrington, Frances Kersting, Ola Harris, Pauline Ammesser, Margaret Kerner, Florence Lehmkuhle, Lucy Beutler.

1907—Thayer Bailey, Trena Cowan, Marie (Conine) Agner, Arey Claypool, Mark Doecker, Alfred Ducey, Anna Jenkins, Lawrence LaBadie, Bessie Leopold, Charles Mallahan, DeFord Meffley, Ralph Maidlow, Mildred (Ogan) Donart, Neil Ruch, Sadie Reed, Glen Salisbury.

1908—Wava (Ewing) Crawfis, Millie Winkleman, Grace Heidlebaugh, W. R. Stuber, Zelma McDowell, Genevieve Ackerman, Ruth C. Frey, Leona Roof, Mary Wilkins, Dora Trame, Beatrice Hager.

1909—Alice Claypool, Leete Brown, Alice Deck, Iva Gillis, Charlotte Kolhoff, Chloe J. Cowan, Albert I. Kahle, Stewart Robenalt, Benjamin Rappaport, Bliss Radabaugh, A. V. Kersting, Mary L. Laihe, Mary E. Miller, Loretta Ducey, Gertrude Harrington.

1910—Marie Brown, Alphonse Kersting, Rowena Jones, Bessie Seibert, Margaret Light, Paul Maidlow, Gladys Meffley, Henry Leasure, Paul Yarnell, Zella Overbeck, Verner Summers, Charles E. Ruple, Julius Rothman, Blanche Radabaugh, Howard Baker, Herbert Eastman.

1911—Henry Rappaport, Todd Cartwright, Bertha McDowell, Mary Hermiller, Louise LaBadie, Gladys (Summers) Robenalt, Wayne R. Ruch, Julius Ogan, Mary Arnold.

1912—Mary L. Frey, Lena Shane, Eva J. McDowell, Ruth Cartwright, William Nemire, N. K. Godfrey, R. E. Bailey, Irene Ducey, Gust Winkleman, Catherine Dinan, Helen Agner, Mabel Graham.

1913—Karl Kersting, Loretta Welde, Lyle Cunner, Floyd Evans, Given H. Acker, Oscar W. Hermiller, Rudolph Beckman, Martha Huber, Angie LaBadie, John H. LaBadie, Frances McGreevy, Mary Schierloh, Lola McBride, Marie Williams, Helen Ruch, Rowena Agner, Hiram K. Ackerman, Guy Kersh, Gertie Nemire, Frances Beck.

1914—Hester Bachman, Helen Kerr, Ethel Kitchen, Mary Jane Zeller,

William Summers, Burdelle Jane Culp, Mildred Cass, Lillian Doecker, Jane Beach, Charlotte Westrick, Mary Rappaport, Helen Fox, Darwin Powell, Zoe Page, Russell Roose, Grace Purnell.

1915—Viola Falke, George W. Melley, Jr., Mildred Pierman, Florence Pence, Jessie Stover, Florence Schierloh, Rozella Westrick, Terese Winkelman, Cora Zink, Helen Van Cleve, Mary Louise Light, Walter Rauh, Florence Jones, Edna Wilkins.

COUNTY SPELLING CONTEST.

There has been a great revival of interest in spelling in the state of Ohio within the last few years and now there is a state-wide contest which is conducted every spring. Each county has an elimination contest and the best spellers from each county meet at Columbus to decide the finals. There are fifteen townships in Putnam county and each was allowed to enter twenty contestants. The other contestants were divided as follows: Each special school district entered two; each high school, six; each normal school, three; each parochial school, six; each village graded school, six. This made a total of nearly four hundred contestants for the final county contest, which was held in 1915 at the county seat on May 15. A list of over eleven hundred words was prepared in advance and all contestants had a chance to study them before the final. Judge John P. Bailey pronounced the words and after a contest, which showed that the boys and girls had prepared themselves for the ordeal, the winner was finally chosen. It proved to be Nellie Green, of Monroe township, who represented the county in the grand final contest at Columbus on June 4, 1915.

CHAPTER XV.

MILITARY RECORD OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

CIVIL WAR.

The record of Putnam county in the Civil War is one which reflects credit on its patriotic citizens, and it is very lamentable that a great part of the official records pertaining to the county's part in the war have been lost or destroyed. Several years ago there was a fire under a stairway in the court house where many of the Civil-war records were kept, and as a result some were burned and others thrown out, only to be lost. Only a very few were rescued and preserved and it is from these that this chapter has been compiled. There was one paper, the *Kalida Venture*, published during the war, but, as far as is known, there are no copies of that period in existence. The few records, together with the reports of the county commissioners, furnish all of the available documentary material on which to base this chapter, and these two sources have been largely incorporated in the present discussion.

Just how many men enlisted from this county will probably never be known. While the most of the enlistments were made in companies recruited in the county, or in companies which were partially filled in the county, there were many who enlisted in other counties and credited to the county in which they enlisted. The records of the county commissioners show the number of persons receiving relief at the hands of the state or county, the maximum number in 1865 totaling nine hundred and ninety-seven. However, since there were many soldiers who had from one to half a dozen or more dependent upon them, is it not possible from this figure to estimate the number of enlistments. Unfortunately, nearly all of the records of enlistments which have been preserved give the volunteers up to and including only 1862. Undoubtedly, the greater number of enlistments occurred after this year. The official list of volunteers compiled by the state of Ohio does not give the county from which the men enlisted and this makes an otherwise

valuable report of no value in determining the number of volunteers from each county.

In returning the names of the volunteers from the various townships, those having charge of this duty neglected in most instances to give the regiment and company in which the volunteers enlisted. The names of enlistments from only twelve of the fifteen townships have been preserved and these are given below in the order in which they appear on the record. No records were found for Jackson, Union and Sugar Creek townships. The townships are arranged alphabetically.

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

John Rotes, Cyrus Carter, William F. Wimer, Nehemiah Hoskinson, J. M. Stout, George Tooman, W. H. H. Myers, James Meals, Isaac Thrapp, Henry Harris, George Ashenfelter, Samuel Ladd, Albert Simpson, Gilbert Radabaugh, Eugene Carter, Levi Claybaugh, William Stateler, B. P. Conn, William Lindsey, Jasper Payne, George Payne, James Clark, Elliott Clark, Moses Woodruff, Louis Woodruff, Jacob Fry, William Patrick, George Franks, Lloyd Nicewarner, James Parker, Rudolph Writh, Daniel Grafton, F. M. Harrit, Edson Crowl, John Welch, David Siders, Abram Sites and Scott Strain. This list is signed by George Bacon, assessor, who says at the end of his report that he had missed Richard Henderson and John Crawfis. The list is headed as a "List of Volunteers since the 2nd of July, 1862," but there is nothing to indicate what period of time the enlistments covered. The only other official record of Blanchard township is the militia roster taken by the assessor in May, 1863, at which time there were two hundred and thirty-three men of militia age (between the ages of eighteen and forty-five) in the township. Evidently this was prepared in view of the draft which was then being contemplated. The names of all the men are given, but it is not stated how many of them had already enlisted, nor has any record been found which discloses how many finally enlisted from the township.

GREENSBURG TOWNSHIP.

The only record of Greensburg township shows that ten men enlisted between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862. This list is signed by F. H. Huster, the assessor of the township. The list follows: Stephen Grove, Elias Larabee, William R. Crow, Ephriam Crow, Seth Neill, Daniel Troyer, Elmer Hartshorn, Samuel Swezy, Stanley Brower and James Wisterman.

JENNINGS TOWNSHIP.

Jennings township is credited with fourteen volunteers between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862, as follows: Isaac Riswer, Simon Allen, Joseph Stephan, Nathaniel Harris, Henry Roose, Hampton E. Wade, Henry Hershey, Asbury Riggle, Robert Good, Emanuel Clapper, Thomas Hunt, Henry Hunter, Presley Good and Henry R. Hagemann. This list is signed by Henry Raabe, the assessor of Jennings township.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

The assessor of Liberty township, James Wooddell, returned the names of thirty-six volunteers of his township who had enlisted between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862. Of this number twenty were in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, nine in the Eighty-third Regiment, one in the Twenty-first Regiment and six unassigned. All of these volunteers except the last six enlisted for three years. The record further gives the age and occupation of all the enlistments. All of them, with the exception of ten, were twenty-one or over and twenty-one of them were farmers. There were two school teachers, a carpenter, plasterer, cooper, tanner, millwright, teamster, engineer and one who was labeled "selling goods." The following twenty were members of the Ninety-ninth Regiment: Albion Clutter, William Henry Harrison, Jr., Henry Waltner, Jonas Baughman, Vincent B. Johnston, John Hickery, Melancton Scott, Hamilton Miller, William T. Dickey, James A. Allen, Rollin Hofsteatter, David L. Strain, Livingston McKinzie, Thomas Crane, Everett Meachem, David Hofsteatter, Benjamin D. Hall, Abraham Knip, Ezra M. Warren and Isaac Douglas. The following nine members were members of the Eighty-third Regiment: William C. G. Krauss, Gustave A. Krauss, Edward M. Krauss, Charles W. Kratzer, Joel Swihart, Hammet Workman, Eli Swihart, George Swihart and William F. Polen. Marion Stockwell is credited to the Twenty-first Regiment. Samuel Leatherman, Samuel Foutz, Joseph Landis, Samuel Runyan, William Nicewarner and Philip Stambaugh were unassigned. Another record of Liberty township shows that five men enlisted between August 22, 1862, and September 16, 1862. Two of these, David Jack and John Stambaugh, enlisted for three years in the Forty-ninth Regiment; two others, Philip J. Zeigler and Samuel Foltz, enlisted for three years in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment; Calvin Allen enlisted for three months in the Eighty-seventh Regiment.

MONROE TOWNSHIP.

There were eleven volunteers from Monroe township between July 2, and August 23, 1862, as returned by William R. Frantz, the assessor of the township. The list follows: Samuel G. Jones, John Connett, John Yarger, Jacob Yarger, Calvin Taylor, Joel Taylor, William Taylor, Jackson Hoggans, William J. Smith, David Cline and John Enmarling.

MONTEREY TOWNSHIP.

Monterey township reported nineteen volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862, as shown by the official report of the assessor, Peter Wannemacher, as follows: Arent Huysman, Walter Huysman, Moses C. Cowen, Orlando F. Damon, Samuel McMillen, T. P. Payne, Ephraim Tillton, Oscar Curtis, George W. Roush, Nathaniel Harris, Israel Gaden, Silas M. Thatcher, John T. Thatcher, Daniel Sullivan, George Good, Jacob Elder, Hiram H. Elder, John W. Stoffer and Isaiah Allgyre.

OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

Ottawa township was the most populous township in the county during the war and furnished the most volunteers, although there is no way of determining the exact number. The only record preserved of Ottawa township gives the volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862. During this short period of fifty days fifty-six men enrolled in the township, as is shown by the report of the assessor, F. W. Deters. The list follows: John Shondel, C. W. Cannon, Daniel Wagner, Charles W. Creighton, John Ward, Cyrus Taylor, George Lutz, Jacob Crow, Abraham Kitchen, W. W. Kitchen, Harry Radabaugh, Worth Watts, John Smith, James McComb, John Fruchey, Henry Fruchey, Prescott Wright, Henry Crum, George Morhead, John Bolzer, John Hart, John Walker, James Sackett, G. S. Rollans (not accepted), Thomas Shyrer, A. A. Ebersole, Joshua T. Cox, George Riegel, W. H. Andrews, E. K. Allen, J. T. Lenzy, John Winkler, I. Willoughby, George Kurtz, Paul Silvers, David Amlir, Berel Andrews, Henry May, Jacob Dommino (not accepted), John Henry Vogt, Samuel Wallace, John Wallace, James McGerry, J. M. Hall, Cornelius McCullough, A. Fowler (not accepted), E. D. Harris, Jacob L.H. Long, Philip Nougte, Cyrus Taylor, John A. Lenhard, William Dickey, John M. Hawkey, Winfield S. Hopkins, Henry Meisner and John Murphy.

PALMER TOWNSHIP.

Palmer township furnished eight volunteers between July 2 and August 22, 1862, as reported by the assessor, Samuel Watters. The list follows: Henry Sigafoose, Elias Sigafoose, William Truitt, Joel Osborn, Joseph Osborn, Joseph Aquila, Wayne Hazelton and George Earnest.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

The records of Pleasant township are the most complete of any township in the county. The first record in point of time gives the volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862, during which time forty-two men enlisted from the township, as follows: George Bunn, Samuel R. Detwiler, Andrew Miller, Titus Hotchkiss, William Starnier, Proctor L. Mounts, John Ward, Peter Edmunds, William Parish, Jacob Sakemiller, Thomas J. Harbaugh, Francis W. Pence, John Bushong, Lafayette Fruchey, John W. Powell, Walter J. Blunden, Webster Frazee, William Lytle, Amos J. Nichol, James R. Smith, David W. Bogart, Andrew R. Sakemiller, William Thompson, George Arnold, David Salyard, Jacob Fuller, Harrison Turner, Adam Turner, Miles Barfield, James Critten, Josiah Krouse, Emmett Heckman, Joseph Tingle, Edward Flint, Alexander Burgess, Leonard S. Spach, John F. Bogart, Benjamin Nicewarner, William R. Smith, John Street and Caleb Sprague.

The only complete record of the soldiers in any township of Putnam county is found in the "Enumeration of all the Soldiers & Mariners, who are in the Service of the State or United States, being residents of Pleasant Township, Putnam Co., O., when entering said service." In May, 1863, the township trustees, John Norton and James Sims, made a complete return of all of the soldiers of Pleasant township and their record shows that the township at that time had one hundred and four volunteers in ten different regiments. This record furthermore gives the company, the sex and age of the families of the soldiers and indicates whether the families are in need of help. Forty-one of the soldiers had families and all but fourteen are listed as "necessitous." The following regiments had volunteers from Pleasant township: Third, Fourth, Fourteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-seventh, Forty-ninth, Fifty-seventh, Eighty-first, Ninety-ninth and One Hundred and Eighteenth.

Third Regiment—Jacob R. Fuller, David Smith, John W. Wilson.

Fourth Regiment—T. L. Byers, Jarvis Postlewait, Robert Lease (discharged), Solomon Rush.

Fourteenth Regiment—Deliverance Parrish, John P. Crawford, John H. Barrett, Dudley Tracey, Stephen Klover, Perry Tate, Isaac C. Connett, Jessie Fruchey, John B. Featherengill, John Ditzler, Thompson Bogan, John Tate, David M. Glancy (deceased), William H. Glancy, William Belford, Oscar Smith, Byron Salmon, Jacob Carr, Sidney Sanders (discharged), Emerson Sampson, Elijah W. Greene (discharged), Orison Buck, Valentine Harbaugh, William Ward, George Ward, Israel W. Martin (discharged), George M. Camden (discharged), Daniel Hotchkiss (discharged), Abraham Bogart, Abraham Smith (discharged), Jacob Kohli, Samuel Sterlin, Oliver Oglevie, Louis Oglevie, Hamilton Killin, Abner Killin, Isaac Fruchey (discharged), Andrew J. Fruchey, Noah W. Ogan, Isaac Bogart, Martin Fuller, William Fuller, W. H. Bowers, S. S. Bowers, Restore Douglass and Gamaliel Morris. All of the members of the Fourteenth Regiment were in Company K.

Twenty-first Regiment—Thomas Bunn, William Bunn, John S. Hart, Joseph Bushong, James Wamsley, Lewis Price, Ozro D. Byers, William Payne. These eight men were members of Company D.

Twenty-seventh Regiment—Robert H. Turner, William C. Turner, Lucas McCombs (discharged), Joseph Edmonds. These volunteers were in Company I.

Forty-ninth Regiment—Simon P. Strow, John A. Lake, Silas A. Ketner, Uriah Johnson. These four men were in Company I.

Fifty-seventh Regiment—James Critten, John Fossett, John Hart, Decatur Tate. All of these men were in Company A with the exception of Hart, who was in Company E.

Eighty-first Regiment—William Parrish, David Salyards, William Thompson, John F. Bogart, George Baum, John Boston, George Arnold, Andrew Miller, Thomas Harbaugh, Francis W. Pence, Jacob Sakemiller, Andrew Sakemiller, Peter Edmonds, John Ward, Leonard Spach, William Starner, John Streatt, Joseph F. Bushong, and Amos J. Nichols (discharged). All of these men were members of Company G.

Ninety-ninth Regiment—Joseph Tingle, B. J. Nicewarner, A. H. Flint. Tingle was a member of Company F and the other two volunteers were in Company I.

One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment—John H. Good, Harrison Turner, Adam Turner. Good was in Company E and the other two were in Company D.

PERRY TOWNSHIP.

Perry township furnished twenty-three volunteers between July 2 and August 22, 1862, according to the report of the assessor, N. Whitney. The list follows: Payton Cline, Elias W. Dimmock, Samuel P. Wollam, Thomas Wagoner, Dibbel Ridenour, John Wheeler, Isaac Wheeler, Leven Corkwell, Moses Dickey, Eli May, Samuel King, William Robart, John T. Guy, William Brown, Cyril B. Bacon, John E. Weiser, Jacob Spittale, John Rariden, Abraham Myers, John Bell, John T. Thatcher, Morris Burnett and John Smith.

RILEY TOWNSHIP.

The assessor of Riley township returned to the auditor the names of eight men who had volunteered from Riley township between July 2 and August 22, 1862. These eight men were as follows: Henry Harris, James Meals, Milton Thrap, Orville Thrap, Newton Wilson, Lewis Stakely, Philip Roulin and Elias Darling.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

Solomon Leffler, the assessor of Van Buren township, returned the names of sixteen men who had volunteered from his township between July 2 and August 22, 1862. The list follows: John Carter, John Drushel, Henry Drushel, Noah Smith, Moses Stirman, Thomas Wilson, Lewis Crosser, Solomon W. Hicks, Jesse Kelly, Alanson Brown, John Reading, Robert Hull, Sylvester Cook, John Wilson, Abraham Newell and William Newell. Between August 22 and September 13, 1862, four more enlisted from Van Buren township: Daniel G. Leffler, Daniel Leffler, Martin Van Bowman and Seth Shoemaker.

PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The complete roster of Putnam county officers in the Civil War is not available, but the following list comprises the most prominent men of the county who attained official ranking: Americus V. Rice, brigadier-general, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Jacob L.H. Long, major, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Thomas Allen, captain; E. K. Allen, captain, Company C, Eighty-eighth Regiment; James C. Gribben, captain, Fifty-seventh Regiment; S. W. Drake, captain, Company I, One Hundred Ninety-seventh Regiment; Guy

Pomeroy, lieutenant, Company D, Twenty-first Regiment; A. D. McClure, lieutenant, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Thomas J. Harbaugh, lieutenant, Company F, Eighty-first Regiment; J. C. Silvers, lieutenant, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Joseph McCrate, lieutenant, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Charles Allen, lieutenant, Twenty-first Regiment; Charles E. Tupper, surgeon, Forty-first Regiment; Joseph Morris, assistant surgeon, One Hundred and Seventy-third Regiment; W. C. G. Krauss, hospital steward; Daniel M. Foltz, quartermaster, Forty-ninth Regiment; Aaron Overbeck, corporal, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

GEN. A. V. RICE, PUTNAM COUNTY'S GREATEST CIVIL-WAR SOLDIER.

Americus V. Rice, who came to Putnam county in 1847, has the honor of attaining a higher military rank in the Civil War than any other man from the county. He was born in Perrysville, Ohio, November 18, 1835, and came to Putnam county with his parents when he was twelve years of age. General Rice graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1860, and at once returned to his home in Kalida to begin the study of law.

In the spring of 1861 he offered his services under the three-months call of President Lincoln and on April 29, 1861, was elected second lieutenant of Company E, Twenty-first Regiment of Ohio Infantry. On May 16, 1861, he was elected captain of the company and served with this rank in West Virginia under Gen. J. D. Cox until the company was mustered out in the following August. He at once returned to his home in Kalida and in the following month organized a company for the three-year service and was mustered in as captain of Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On February 8, 1862, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of his regiment upon the unanimous recommendation of all the officers of the regiment. His regiment was present at the battle of Shiloh and was in the thickest of that terrible fight. One-third of the regiment was missing, which goes to show the conspicuous part it played in the battle. During the engagement a shell burst above the head of Colonel Rice, knocking both him and his horse to the ground, but fortunately did not seriously injure either of them. It is not possible in this brief summary of his career to follow his military career in detail. Suffice it to say, that his conduct on all occasions was such as to commend him to those above him in authority. In March, 1863, he was placed in command of the First Brigade, First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, and on April 16, of the same year,

was commissioned colonel of the Fifty-seventh Regiment. Fighting with his regiment in all of the skirmishes around Vicksburg, he won additional honor in the skillful manner in which he handled his regiment. In leading an assault on that stronghold he was struck in the leg by a minie ball and seriously injured and kept out of active service until January, 1864. In recognition of his gallant services around Vicksburg, General Grant recommended him for promotion to brigadier-general, and with this rank he served with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign. At Kenesaw Mountain he was so badly wounded in the leg that it had to be amputated above the knee. For his bravery at Resaca, May 14, 1864, he was again recommended by the general officers for promotion to the rank of brigadier-general, but the appointment was withheld until May, 1865.

On account of the loss of his leg, General Rice was unable to rejoin his command until April, 1865, when he took charge of his regiment at Newburn, North Carolina. He passed with his command in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., on May 24, 1865, and in the following month took them to Louisville, Kentucky. There he was assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, which he took to Little Rock, Arkansas, arriving there June 24, 1865. He remained there in command until his command was mustered out in August of the same year. General Rice was honorably discharged on January 15, 1866.

It is interesting to note that General Rice, after the close of the war, at once entered into peaceful pursuits with the same enthusiasm which characterized his career in the military life. He was a war Democrat and was always interested in political matters. He was a delegate to the Baltimore convention which nominated Horace Greeley. In 1874 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected in 1876. In 1894 he was appointed United States pension agent for Ohio and took possession of his office on May 1 of that year. He subsequently went to Washington and was connected with the pension department for a number of years. While in office, he died and was buried in the cemetery at Arlington.

THIRTY SOLDIERS.

Many of the soldiers of Putnam county saved their money and sent it home from time to time. Among the few Civil War records found was a package of orders, thirty-three in number, which represented varying sums of money sent home by the soldiers of this county. In order that future generations may know who these thirty-three thrifty men were, their names

are here given, with the sums of money which they forwarded to their loved ones on January 15, 1864: Twenty-first Regiment, Thomas Anderson, \$700; J. N. Hickerson, \$40; Daniel Carr, \$50; Edson G. Crowl, \$50; Jackson Sylvis, \$30; C. F. Jones, \$50; J. Harris, \$50; Francis Lindsey, \$40; Joseph Bushong, \$100; James B. Trask, \$100; Daniel Fairchild, \$100; Aaron Rice, \$50; John Hart, \$50; Edward H. Clever, \$30; R. McBride, \$90; Celestin Chochard, \$100; Elam D. Fairchild, \$50; Jacob D. Vanscorder, \$45; Thirty-eighth Regiment, Nicholas Quick, \$30; Forty-ninth Regiment, Jacob N. Reed, \$30; John A. Leonard, \$25; Albert Harris, \$30; John M. Cartwright, \$40; Francis A. Kiene, \$40; Jacob Foltz, \$100; William H. Dean, \$25; John A. Lake, \$10; Sixty-fifth Regiment, William Harris, \$60; John Osborn, \$25; Jacob Lindsey, \$50; One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, J. Taylor, \$40; A. Kitchen, \$50; N. Clevenger, \$65.

SOLDIER RELIEF DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

During the progress of the Civil War the families of the soldiers were often reduced to poverty and the counties individually, as well as the state, came to their rescue. Thousands of dollars were expended for relief and before the war had progressed more than a year definite arrangements had been made to provide the necessities of life to every needy soldier's family. The following statistics have been taken from the commissioners' records and show that fifteen thousand nine hundred forty-nine dollars and ninety cents was paid out for relief from June, 1862, until March, 1866, when the last relief was paid. This money was proportioned to the townships according to their enlistments and was distributed by specially-appointed agents. The following table shows the amount of relief year by year: December, 1862, \$598.92, 919 receiving relief; June, 1864, \$2,415.00, 997 receiving relief; March, 1865, \$6,036.29, 997 receiving relief; September, 1865, \$3,758.69, 997 receiving relief; March, 1866, \$3,140.00, number receiving relief not given.

A CIVIL-WAR ELECTION.

It is not generally known that the soldiers in the field during the Civil War were allowed to vote and although those from Putnam county must have exercised their franchise, there is a record of only one man casting his vote in the field. Among the few Civil War records saved is a certificate of election showing that Walter Huysman, a resident of Monterey township, a member of the Second Regiment of Engineers, voted in Knox county,

Tennessee, on the second Tuesday of October, 1863. On a ticket twenty-eight inches long, the said Huysman voted for governor (John Brough), lieutenant governor (Charles Anderson), auditor of state (James H. Godman), treasurer of state (G. Volney Dorsey), judge of the supreme court (Hocking H. Hunter), member of the board of public works (John M. Barriere), state representative (Cyrus Howard), judge of common pleas court (Joseph Plunket), probate judge (J. B. Jones), county clerk (Samuel D. Ayers), sheriff (Nathaniel H. Bagley), county commissioner (Elias W. Dimmock), surveyor (Seneca J. Powell). This ticket was headed "Ohio Union Ticket" and was, of course, the regular Republican ticket.

VOTERS OF 1847.

Among the Civil War records were found the returns of the assessors of Ottawa, Jackson and Richland townships, giving the names of all the white male inhabitants above the age of twenty-one years in 1847. Ottawa township was credited with two hundred and fourteen voters, Jackson with forty-one and Richland with one hundred and thirty-five.

MILITIA DAYS IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

Up to the opening of the Mexican War in 1846 there were local militia companies in every county in Ohio and as soon as Putnam county was organized in 1834 steps were taken to organize the citizens of the county into companies. The first company in Ottawa township had on its roll practically every citizen; in fact, the law provided that all able-bodied citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, should attend muster day at least twice a year. Capt. F. S. Godfrey was the head of the company in Ottawa township, which bore the bellicose title of "Black Hawk Riflemen." This name was doubtless the result of the Black Hawk War which had just closed a year or so before Putnam county was organized. The uniform of these warriors consisted of a black hunting shirt, jeans trousers and a felt hat decorated with a long black feather. On muster days the whole county turned out to watch the maneuver and these were the biggest days of the year. More whiskey was drunk, more fights staged, more corn bread eaten and more blood spilled on this day than any other in the year. Interest in local militia companies gradually died out before the opening of the Mexican War and when preparations were made to furnish troops for that struggle, the militia laws were revised and the "corn-stalk militia" became a thing of

the past. It was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that Putnam county had another local militia company and the county seat now boasts of one of the finest armory buildings in the state of Ohio.

COMPANY M, OHIO NATIONAL GUARD.

On June 20, 1901, Colonel Adams, of Columbus, mustered in Company M of the Ohio national guard at Ottawa. Colonel Adams was assisted in this work by Colonel Ream and Major Vail, of Lima. Prof. J. W. Smith, of the Ottawa public schools, was first appointed to fill the office of captain. The following is a complete list of the men mustered in: Clive Agner, Vinza Agner, Rudolph Alt, Fred Arnold, Benjamin Griffith, Leo Harmon, LeRoy Haskell, Frank Hensel, Carl Husted, David Jenkins, George Jenkins, Carl Knettle, Paul Knettle, Harmon Bassett, Frank Fisher, Ed Ford, Charles Fowler, Ed Frey, Theodore Fuerst, Frank Fulton, Leonard Gerdeman, Jackson Ogle, Clarence Bailey, Dalby Crawfis, Earl Crawfis, Frank Cummer, Geary Day, Ed Farthing, Will Farrell, J. W. Row, Leslie Sawtelle, William Vail, Wilson Palmer, Nelson McDowell, Charles Reed, Herman Reed, Clyde Ridge, Calvin Wagner, Byron Pope, Walter Risser, Allen Robenalt, William Robenalt, Ed Shondel, Joe Shondel, J. W. Smith, William Smith, Benjamin Thompson, and Clyde Tupper. All of these members were residents of Ottawa. The following were residents of Leipsic: William Baughman, William Eastman, Joseph Justice, Ed Kuntz, Chester Lowry, Dyke Nutter and Forest Nutter.

The first officers were J. W. Row, first lieutenant; H. M. Reed, second lieutenant; J. D. Crawfis, first sergeant; F. E. Cummer, second sergeant; L. Haskell, third sergeant; C. A. Frey, fourth sergeant; H. L. Robenalt, fifth sergeant; H. T. Bassett, commissary; F. O. Arnold, L. C. Gerdeman, J. M. Justice, M. G. Haskell, W. E. Laibe, A. J. Ogle, and D. R. Jenkins, corporals.

Company M was first quartered in the building across from the DuMont hotel. Later the opera house served as temporary quarters until it soon moved to the old armory on Second street. This armory was owned by private individuals and rented to Company M.

A movement was set on foot in 1913 for a new armory. The citizens of Ottawa were behind this movement and appropriated five thousand dollars to buy a site for the new structure. The state then made an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars and the efforts of the citizens who had worked for this building were soon to be rewarded. A lot was purchased on Main

street and work on the new armory was soon begun. The building was completed in September, 1914, and the company moved into their new quarters in October of the same year.

At present there are fifty-three members, counting officers, with strong indications of an increase in enrollment. The present officers are G. M. Cartwright, captain; James O. Post, first lieutenant; Fred L. Roose, second lieutenant.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Thomas Allen Post No. 578, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Ottawa on March 3, 1886, with twenty-six members, as follows: J. C. Light, D. R. Jenkins, Joseph Allen, J. M. Hawley, J. L'H. Long, A. V. Rice, David Donley, Philip Schweichert, J. R. Smith, B. B. Dennis, Prescott P. Wright, John J. Frey, John Shondel, A. G. Bogardus, T. B. Conn, L. L. Parker, John Ward, P. B. Radabaugh, J. C. McAdow, D. S. Blakeman, Aaron Overbeck, C. P. Bennett, H. C. Carr, C. A. Layton, F. M. Blakeman and Bernard Kruger. At the time of the application for a charter the petitioners asked that the new post be named Thomas Allen Post, in honor of a lieutenant by that name, a resident of the county, who was killed in Virginia during the progress of the war.

The local post is not as strong as it has been in the past and each succeeding Memorial day sees fewer of the old veterans in line. It cannot be but a few years until the last will have answered the final roll call, but this one day will always be kept in grateful remembrance of those who fought and bled that this country might remain a united nation. The complete list of all members of Thomas Allen Post, together with their companies and regiments, is as follows:

Louis L. Parker, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.
Jacob L'H. Long, Eighty-seventh Regiment.
David Blakeman, Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment.
Aaron Overbeck, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.
A. V. Rice, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.
H. H. Pope.
Herman Albright, Company I.
John Ward, Twenty-first Regiment.
Barney Gerding, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.
Bernard Krueger, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.
Andrew Erhart, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.
John J. Frey, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.
Joshua C. Light, Company A, Sixty-sixth Regiment.

John J. Zeller, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment.
 David R. Jenkins, Company B, Ninety-ninth Regiment.
 C. P. Bennett.

J. C. Barr, Fifty-fourth Regiment.
 David Bridenbaugh, Company K, Eighth Regiment.
 David Donley, Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment.
 J. M. Hawkey, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.
 Thomas Mellman.

J. C. McAdow, Fifteenth Regiment.

J. S. Neal.

M. H. Reed.

Philip Schweichert.

Nicholas Thompson, Company A, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment.

C. E. Taylor.

George Stephens.

W. C. G. Krauss.

Fred Unerholtz.

Henry Rosenbauer, Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment.

C. E. Beardsley.

Henry Thraikill.

David Catlett.

John W. Wolfe.

T. T. Wright, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

B. P. Eckbaugh, Company D, Twenty-first Regiment.

E. P. McKenzie, Company D, One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment.

T. B. Conn, Company B, One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment.

H. W. Sackett, Company B, One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment.

William Stephens.

Christopher Ury, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

A. G. Bogardus.

G. C. Williams, Company K, Fiftieth Regiment.

Thomas Snyder, Company E, Eighty-first Regiment.

F. L. Sandles, Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-first Regiment.

Isaac Thrapp, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

T. C. Hipkins, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment.

W. H. Handy, Company H, Sixty-seventh Regiment.

F. M. Blakeman, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment.

Anton Dreup, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

C. H. Hathaway, Company I, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

H. C. Carr, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Regiment.

J. R. Smith, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

John Russett, Company G, One Hundred and First Regiment.

Alexander McMonigal, Company C, One Hundred and Eighty-sixth Regiment.

James W. Bailey, Company E, Eighty-first Regiment.

When the new court house was built, a room was set aside for the Grand Army of the Republic. Here they keep their records, hold their regular meetings and gather for a social hour. The room is well equipped with furniture and presents an attractive appearance at all times. A few years ago the government presented the post with three cannon, which were placed in the court house yard. One was christened "Old Putnam" and the other "General McPherson." When the present court house was erected they were all removed. Two are now in the city park and the other is in the fair grounds.

The present officers of the post are as follow: C. M. Hathaway, post commander; E. A. McKenzie, senior vice-commander; Chris Ury, junior vice-commander; David R. Jenkins, adjutant; H. C. Carr, quartermaster sergeant; Aaron Overbeck, surgeon; T. C. Hipkins, chaplain; Isaac Thrapp, officer of the day; J. J. Frey, officer of the guard; W. H. Handy, patriotic instructor. At the present time there are no Putnam county veterans in either the soldiers' home at Sandusky or in the one at Dayton, a record of which the county may well be proud. Every living soldier in the county who served ninety days or more is now drawing a pension. The county commissioners make an annual appropriation of fifteen dollars to each post for Memorial Day expenses, and allow seventy dollars for the burial expenses of old soldiers.

OTHER G. A. R. POSTS IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

There have been nine other Grand Army posts in Putnam county, as follows: Columbus Grove, Oglevie, No. 64; Continental, A. V. Rice, No. 718; Continental, Henry Beemer, No. 214; Belmore; Kalida, Gibbons, No. 193; Vaughnsville, Joe Collar, No. 192; Gilboa, Lindsay, No. 75; Leipsic, Daniel Miller, No. 78; Dupont, Weiser, No. 93.

Of these posts, Belmore and Kalida are discontinued and all of the others have only a few members left. The Henry Beemer Post at Con-



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, COLUMBUS GROVE.

tinental was formerly at North Creek, but on account of so many of its members living in or near to Continental, the post was transferred to that place.

SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AT COLUMBUS GROVE.

A beautiful soldiers' monument was dedicated at Columbus Grove on May 20, 1915, and, despite the inclement weather, the occasion was the means of bringing a large crowd to the town. The Alstetter, Delphos and Shannon bands furnished excellent music during the day, while Comrade Keirn's drum corps helped to stir up the enthusiasm of the rain-stricken crowd. There was an imposing parade, which wound up in the large tent of the Shannon Show Company, which was showing in the town that week. Mayor Poast made an appropriate welcoming address and was followed by Cyrus E. Locher, of Cleveland, who spoke on "The Boys in Blue." M. D. Long gave such a stirring talk that the people generously gave about five hundred dollars which went towards paying for the monument. The final address was made by Gen. J. Kent Hamilton, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic of Ohio, who closed an eloquent speech with the formal unveiling of the monument.

The monument, which was made possible through the untiring efforts of the Civic League of Columbus Grove, has a total height of sixteen feet and ten inches. It is cut from gray granite and makes a truly imposing appearance. The base and pedestal have a total height of ten feet and four inches, the whole being surmounted by the standing statue of an infantryman, six feet and a half in height. The monument stands at one end of the town park, while at the other end of the park is located a beautiful new granite drinking fountain.

SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

We have a record of but two soldiers of the Revolutionary War who are buried in Putnam county. One of these, Israel Hubbard, is buried in the old graveyard on the Mallahan farm in Riley township, while the other, William Jack, is buried on what is known as the Pearman farm, in Ottawa township.

SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

Among those who served in the War of 1812 and who came to this county in 1834-35, we have a record of the following: Frederick Eck, Matthew Chambers, Nathaniel McClure, Andrew McClure and William Galbreath, all of whom died many years ago.

CHAPTER XVI.

SIDELIGHTS ON PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORY.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF PUTNAM COUNTY IN 1870.

The following list of business and professional interests in Putnam county is taken from Dun's Report of 1870 and may prove interesting even after the lapse of forty-five years:

BELMORE.

William E. Caddy, physician; Doctor Drain, physician; G. W. Edwards, general store; H. Enslinger, general store; John Gible, boots and shoes; C. Green, wagon maker; William Knoke, mill, etc.; V. L. Ovenchain, dry goods and groceries; John Pennel, hotel; Speaker Brothers, general store; A. R. Van Doran, drugs, groceries, etc.

COLUMBUS GROVE.

William Breckbill, stoves and tinware; Charles Busche, grocery; A. W. Chase, grocery and bakery; Thomas N. Day, general store; A. H. Day & Bro., general store; C. H. Day & Co., grain; A. Edmonds, wagon maker; Edwards & Ward, bricklayers; Elkell & Bro., saw-mill; John Greek, grocery; Fred Hannert, shoes; E. A. Hartley, hardware; E. Henderson & Co., stave factory; David Jones, saddler; Jacob Kohli, wagon maker; McHenry & Gessells, produce, Simon Maple, dry goods, etc.; I. W. Martin, flour-mill; Martin & Son, general store; Joseph Oglevie, carpenter; A. Oglevie, steam mill; Henry Oglevie, saw-mill; Mrs. E. Palmer, milliner; Anderson Reeder, saw-mill; Jacob Risser, grocery; John Rollands, saddler; Alexander Slemmons, blacksmith; J. O. Smith, cooper; J. B. Sprague, drugs and groceries; Samuel Stirlen, furniture; Joseph Tingle, merchant tailor; Simon Turner, physician; John D. Viers, cabinet maker; Ward & Arnold, groceries.

FT. JENNINGS.

Louis Boehmer, mills; Funk, silversmith; F. H. Klakamp, grocery and tavern; Christian Raabe, dry goods and groceries; William Recker, grocery

GILBOA.

Stellman Blodgett, cabinet maker; Jacob Bressler & Co., general store; Pressley Coron, lumber, stock; John Cunningham, miller; W. H. Fisher, groceries and drugs; James Fuld, shoes; J. S. Hill, drugs; G. Kisabeth, shoes; A. D. McClure, dry goods, etc.; W. McClure, tavern.

GLANDORF.

Altekruse & Son, general store; Joseph Baker, shoes; Frank Brinkman, wagons; John G. Buckhold, hotel; J. W. Ellerbrock & Co., woolen factory; Henry Evers, shoemaker; Anthony Fox, shoemaker; Joseph Gerding, saddler; Ferd Gerding, harness; Henry Guelker, shoes; William Helker, grocery; F. W. Hoffman, general store; Hubert Huber, physicians; Hueve & Nartger, bricklayers; Henry Kassing, blacksmith; Kolhoff & Doepker, saw-mill; F. Landgraber, general store; George Loudonbach, tailor; Henry H. Meyers, shoemaker; Moenke & Co., flouring-mill; William Rampe, shoemaker; Mrs. E. Ricknier, grocery; John Schmenck, grocery; Henry Shafer, blacksmith; M. Shoemaker, tailor; Blasius Street, furniture; Nicholas Thom, wagons; Henry Wortcutter, tailor.

KALIDA.

S. D. Ayers, grocery; Wilton H. Crain, wagons; Lee & Bro., drugs and dry goods; S. Metheny & Co., general store; John Overbeck, cabinet maker; L. L. Parker, dry goods; John T. Thrift, physician.

LEIPSIK.

A. Ball, shoemaker; Frank Eastman, mill; R. Edgecomb, dry goods and groceries; S. S. Emery, physician; Joseph Faber, carriage; Folk & Son, clothing and grain; Hammet & Alt, general store; Daniel Leffler, grocery; Charles Mann, hotel; Joseph Opdyke, saw-mill; J. D. Timmerman, drugs; Jacob Werner, lumber; V. Winkler, shoemaker; A. J. Young, groceries and drugs; Solomon Young, drugs and dry goods.

VAUGHNSVILLE.

Peter Breeling, hotel and grocery; T. Henderson, dry goods and groceries.

OTTAWA.

H. F. Beach, wagon maker; C. E. Beardsley, physician; John Beck, dry goods, etc.; R. J. Beeney, baker and grocery; J. S. Bowers, furniture; Andrew Brinkman, blacksmith; Sarah Buahler, milliner; Burkmier & Gosling, saddlers; C. M. Carson, hotel; Carnahan & Ault, builders; Mrs. M. Cover, milliner; M. C. & J. P. Ewing, produce; Foltz & Taylor, marble; John Fipp, groceries; Samuel F. Foltz, livery; Freese & Raff, dry goods; Joseph Gerding, harness; F. S. Godfrey, baker and grocery; N. Goetchius, foundry; Mrs. J. Goldsmith, grocery; N. M. Haviland, groceries and provisions; J. S. Hale, furniture; A. J. Hamilton, tinner; Thomas H. B. Hipkins, groceries and produce; Thomas H. B. Hipkins & Sons, dry goods and groceries; Holtz, Goetchius & Co., manufacturers hubs, etc.; Kelly & Hauck, drugs; George D. Kinder, printing; J. C. and H. F. Knowles, insurance; Laskey, Pratt & Campbell, stoves, etc.; Frank Lassance, clothing; Lentzy & Willoughby, merchant tailors; David Lowery, hardware; McBride & Humberger, steam mill; McCoy, Slauson & Co., dry goods and groceries; Miles & Son, builders; A. S. Miller, contractor; Misner & Brockman, boots and shoes; Lyman M. Moe, physician; J. T. Moorehead, books, notions; Newman & Co., dry goods; Freeman F. Paul, physician; E. Pomeroy, groceries and notions; C. H. Rice & Co., bankers; Michael Row, hotel; Charles Schimpff, jeweler; William Schnitschulte, groceries; Mrs. F. Sargent, milliner; Samuel Shoup, drugs; John P. Simon, groceries and provisions; Slausson, Ewing & Cox, bankers; Slawson & Ewing, real estate dealers; J. R. Thompson, photographer and picture; C. E. Tupper, physician; Lyeurgus Willoughby, hotel.

OTTOVILLE.

Joseph C. Forrier, groceries and dry goods; Gerhart Otte, dry goods and groceries; Charles Wannemacher, shoemaker; Mathias Winkleman, dry goods and grocery.

PENDLETON.

Joe Keinie, dry goods and groceries; John Lacont, grocery; James McBride, tailor; J. C. Snyder, dry goods and groceries; Mark Thompson, general store.

THE STORY OF JOHNNY APPLESEED.

Who has not heard of Johnny Appleseed? He spent his life in the woods, wore cast-off clothes, tramped the year around in his bare feet, had little or no money and died in comparative obscurity and yet did more to promote the raising of apples in the state of Ohio than any other man. The fruit he was responsible for raising would fill millions of bushel baskets.

Johnny Appleseed for years wandered through Ohio planting apple seeds, collected at cider mills and carried in a little sack over his shoulder, in practically every cleared tract he could find. Often he would clear pieces of land in the heart of the wilderness and plant either sprouts or seeds. So well known did he become that people forgot his real name was John Chapman and called him by his soubriquet.

Johnny Appleseed was born in 1775, at Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Nathaniel Chapman, and came with his half brother to Ohio in 1801. Soon afterward a desire to wander and develop apple orchards struck the young man and, abandoning civilization, he set forth. As early as 1811 he had become known all over the state and before he left it to go west, where the ax of the pioneer was not heard, he was probably the best known man in the state. Few communities did not boast of orchards planted by his hands. He died in Allen county, Ohio, in the summer of 1847, aged seventy-two years, forty-six of which had been consecrated to his self-imposed mission.

Johnny Appleseed was a man of many manias. He abhorred the extinction of all forms of life. One time, when lying before his fire in the woods, he saw that gnats and mosquitoes were flying to their death in the flames. He promptly arose, extinguished the fire and permitted himself to be bitten all night by the pests. At another time he sought shelter from cold and snow in a hollow log, which he found occupied by a bear and her cubs. He quickly withdrew and laid in the snow and cold all night. At another time he accidentally killed a rattlesnake which had bitten him. He blamed it on an ungodly passion.

Johnny Appleseed was an apostle of Swedenborg, whose literature he distributed among the people he met. Once, when his supply had become exhausted, he tore his only remaining book in two and gave one part to each of the two men with whom he was talking.

He was twice jilted by young women whom he expected to marry.

JOHNNY APPLESEED VISITS THE RESERVATION.

While the early settlers found a number of good-sized apple trees on the reservation when they first came here, no one of our pioneer citizens knew of Johnny's visits prior to the year 1833, when he came down the river in a canoe laden with young apple trees. It is stated that wherever he could find a white settler he would furnish him with trees without regard to the settler's ability or disposition to pay for the same. His last trip down the Blanchard was in the year 1841. The history of this remarkable man and great philanthropist is so well known throughout Ohio, especially in the northwest portion of the state, that it is not necessary to give it in detail here.

Many years ago the writer of this history interviewed a large number of the pioneer citizens of the county in regard to events and incidents connected with its early history. Among those interviewed was Mr. Brower, who settled on the banks of the Blanchard river, in Greensburg township. Among the incidents Mr. Brower related was one referring to Johnny Appleseed, who figured as a "tourist" in this part of the state from the close of the war of 1812 and for some twenty years after. The present generation is no doubt familiar with the eccentricities of this man and the life he led, therefore we will but briefly notice one of his visits to this county, at which time he paid a visit to Mr. Brower, who states that during the visit Johnny exhibited his usual characteristics or eccentricities of habits. While on this visit he brought with him a big supply of apple seeds, which were encased in pumice from cider-mills in western Pennsylvania, the source of his supply. Johnny made it a business to plant these seeds on every available spot along the Blanchard river and in a few years afterward the early pioneers gathered many apples from the trees grown from the seed planted by Johnny, and a number of the trees bore fruit for many years after the organization of the county. When he planted the seed he usually put some brush around the spot to protect the young trees, yet as the county was cleared up and brush burned, many of the young trees were destroyed.

EARLY TAVERNS.

Prior to 1850 there were many taverns in Putnam county, and places for the entertainment of man and beast were located about every three miles along the roads generally traveled in those days. In every small village two or more taverns existed. In Gilboa, in 1847-1850, taverns were

kept by Matthias Chambers, William McClure, William Hipkins and Christian Hensy, while in Kalida taverns were kept by Arthur E. Martin, William Phillips, James H. Vail, T. R. McClure and Mr. Foss. It was a common custom then to have bars, where liquor was sold at the modest sum of five cents per drink. Then there was only a state tax of five dollars a year for the privilege of dispensing strong drinks, no revenue or county tax being required. Beer and ale were not then a common beverage.

AN EARLY DISTILLERY.

There was one distillery of whisky in the county. It was known as Ash distillery, located in Jennings township, near the canal. It is common report that often, when government revenue officers were expected to call, weights would be put on barrels of liquor which were sunk in the canal, until after Uncle Sam's men had gone. A few years ago a barrel was found in the canal, after being there many years. It is supposed that this one was overlooked and forgotten by the owners. Of course canal whisky is always good.

COUNTY EXPENSES IN 1849.

The county commissioners' report for the year ending June 4, 1849, certifies that the amount paid prosecuting attorney, for one year's salary, was \$108.33; paid clerk of courts, yearly allowance, \$43.33; paid for stationery, during year, \$49.50; paid for postage by the county for all officials, \$2.83; paid for wolf scalps, \$39; auditor's salary, \$499; treasurer's salary, \$489.38.

In the year 1849, the three county commissioners received sixty dollars for per diem allowances. These items show how expenses have increased in sixty-six years.

KALIDA MARKET, MARCH, 1847.

As published in the *Venture* at that time:

For purposes of comparison, the following market quotations are reproduced from the *Kalida Venture* of March, 1847: Wheat, per bushel, 75 cents; corn, per bushel, 25 cents; oats, per bushel, 15 cents; clover seed, per bushel, \$3.00; timothy seed, per bushel, \$1.00; flax seed, per bushel, 62 cents; beans, per bushel, 75 cents; potatoes, per bushel, 25 cents; pork, pickled, per pound, 4 cents; beef, fresh, per pound, 4 cents; butter, per pound, 9 cents; lard, per pound, 6 cents; ham, per pound, 6 cents; tallow, per pound, 10 cents; maple sugar, per pound, 10 cents; eggs, per dozen, 5 cents.

CHOLERA AT GILBOA IN 1852.

In 1852, during the epidemic of cholera, Gilboa was the worst afflicted village in the county. It had nineteen cases of the dread disease, from which fourteen deaths occurred, only five persons who had the disease recovering. A great many of the people fled from the village, and only two doctors remained to administer to the afflicted. One of these two was Dr. T. E. Paul and the other Doctor Thatcher, a Hungarian by birth, who died with the disease at the time.

EARLY LIQUOR VIOLATIONS.

The contention now in regard to the liquor question is not a new thing, or "boot-legging" a new species of crime under the laws of this state. Eighty-one years ago (1834), at the first term of court ever held in this county, the first grand jury convened brought in six indictments, four of which were "for selling spirits without a license." The first criminal case in the first court was for this offense, and the dispenser of the spirits was fined twenty-five dollars and costs. In those days a license to traffic in liquor was required and the amount of the license was five dollars. Upon the adoption of the new Constitution in 1851-52 the license law became obsolete and a penalty was prescribed for the sale of liquor and everyone selling it laid himself liable to a fine. This condition existed up to the time of the enactment of the law requiring dealers to pay a tax. Up to this latter date nearly every grand jury indicted from one to a dozen saloon keepers. They were each fined about twenty-five dollars and costs for each offense, which was paid and the dealer proceeded in the business until the next court convened, when in many instances he was again indicted and paid his fine. In some cases, a term in the county jail was added to the fine.

AN EARLY POSTMASTER OF GILBOA.

In looking over some old documents in our possession we came across the following letter, written by the second assistant postmaster-general to Hon. William Sawyer, notifying Mr. Sawyer of the appointment of Stansberry Sutton as postmaster at Gilboa, this county, with Mr. Sawyer's letter to Mr. Sutton informing him of his appointment:

"Postoffice Department,
"Appointment Office,

Dec. 10th, 1845.

"Sir—I have the honor to inform you that the postmaster-general has appointed Stansberry Sutton postmaster at Gilboa, in the state of Ohio, in place of J. E. Creighton, resigned. I am respectfully your obedient servant,

"W. I. BROWN.

"Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

"To the Honorable William Sawyer,
House of Representatives."

Mr. Sawyer notifies Mr. Sutton as follows, written at the bottom of the same page as the foregoing:

"Dear Sir—Your appointment as p. m. at Gilboa is sent to you. The above is a notification of the fact to me.

"With respects, yours,

"WILLIAM SAWYER."

There are very few of our older citizens who do not remember Stansberry Sutton, one of the most highly respected and prominent citizens of Gilboa and Ottawa for many years, and who died in Ottawa in the year 1879, after a long and useful life.

A KALIDA RAT-TRAP.

In 1852 a resident of Kalida invented a rat trap which is duly mentioned in the *Venture* at that time: "The trap consisted of a hollow stick, about seven feet long, closed at one end, and after putting some grain and litter in it he set the trap in his hay mow and covered it with hay. The next morning he plugged the hole in the trap, and carried it out and killed the rats." The inventor claimed that the trap was a great success.

THE WOLF SCALP INDUSTRY.

During the early history of Putnam county, many wolves infested the county as well as the other counties in this part of the state. At that time the state paid a bounty for the scalps of wolves, and the early pioneers were industrious in hunting them. The money they received for the scalps was certainly a blessing to them in those days, as money was very scarce and what was received from this source paid taxes and afforded now and then a better living in several respects. All scalps had to be presented to the

clerk of the court, who issued an order on the county treasurer for the amount. The order called for four dollars and twenty-five cents for each scalp. Persons presenting scalps had to swear that they killed the wolves.

The following is a sample of the affidavits required to be made:

"You, George Sweiger, do solemnly swear that the scalps now produced by you are the scalps of wolves taken by you within the county of Putnam, within twenty days last past, and verily believe the same to have been under the age of six months, and that you have not spared the life of any she wolf within your power to kill, with a view to increase the breed.

"GEORGE SWEIGER.

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of May, A. D. 1834.

"DANIEL W. GRAY, Clerk pro tem."

The above certificate was numbered 11, and is the earliest certificate we find on file.

The George Sweiger above mentioned was quite a success as a wolf hunter, as he presented many of the scalps of wolves killed at various times. During the period from 1834 to 1836, many wolves were killed in this county, and about a hundred were killed during the year 1834. Many persons killed only a single wolf, while others seemed to make it a business.

Among those drawing the most money during the year 1834, for wolf scalps, were the following: George Sweiger, \$60; William Kenny, \$42.75; John Woods, \$26.75; Andrew Clawson, \$20; John Elder, \$21.25; John McGill, \$15; Joseph Nichols, \$15; Leonard Sweiger, \$12.50; John Neill, \$9.25, and George Blessing, \$7.50.

The last wolf known to be bred in this county was killed by a hunter, near Belmore, many years ago.

Miles Crow, many years ago a resident of Greensburg township, was a great hunter and was possibly the last man in the county to trap or kill wolves. He was successful in killing more wolves than any other man, after the year 1840.

An incident is related of one of Ottawa's first settlers wherein about every male citizen of that time became very much excited. In March of 1835, a man who lived at the river bank on the west side of what is now known as Walnut street, had a barn yard where now is located the old wheel works. He had in the yard a flock of sheep. The snow had been deep on the ground for nearly a month. A pack of wolves came across the river and made a raid on the sheep. About every man in the village turned out to fight the wolves. In the fight two valuable dogs were killed by the wolves,

while but a few of the wolves were captured. The owner of the dogs greatly regretted their loss, as in that day a good hunting dog was valued at a greater price than an entire flock of sheep.

In waterworks park, in Ottawa, may now be seen one of the traps used for capturing wolves in the early history of the county.

THE FIRST SCHOOL ON THE RESERVATION.

The first school taught on the Indian reservation was held in a part of a double log cabin owned by Christian Huber. This cabin was located on the farm now owned by Mr. Miller, and situated immediately north of the present waterworks plant. Miss Priscilla Compton taught the first school in the first school house in Ottawa, that being located immediately north of the residence for a time occupied by Thomas Carnahan. This school house was built of logs, the seats and desks were made of slabs, and the floor was of puncheons.

SELECTING POSTMASTERS IN 1845.

It is not generally known that the people of the various towns of Putnam county helped to select their postmasters seventy years ago. Such, however, appears to have been the case, if the report given in a local paper is to be believed. The following extract from the *Kalida Venture* tells its own story:

"Postoffice Meeting.

"In pursuance to notice heretofore given the Democratic citizens transacting their business through the Postoffice at Kalida met at the office of Ben Metcalf and proceeded to nominate a suitable person to be recommended to the Postmaster General to fill the vacancy in the Postoffice at Kalida to be occasioned by the resignation of M. M. Gillett the present incumbent:

"Which resulted on the fifth balloting, in the choice of Winchton Risley.

"On motion the meeting adjourned without day, March 22nd, 1845. Stephen White, Chairman. Ben Metcalf, Secretary."

IRON BRIDGES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

There seems to have been considerable discussion in the local newspapers concerning the first iron bridge in the county. From the best evidence obtainable it appears that it was built over the Blanchard at Cuba

in Greensburg township. The Auglaize and Blanchard rivers, with their many tributaries, have necessitated the building of a large number of expensive bridges. There are no less than five bridges across the Blanchard at Ottawa, although the county built three of them, the others being erected by the steam and electric roads which come into the town. The county has built fourteen iron bridges over the Blanchard river and eight across the Auglaize; in addition, there are scores of bridges across the many tributaries of the two larger streams of the county. It is not too much to say that the spanning of the rivers and streams of Putnam county has cost nearly half a million dollars within the past half century.

EARLY DEBATING SOCIETIES.

In the early history of Putnam county, debates on public questions were one of the most popular features of entertainment, and debating societies were in vogue in every community where a school house existed. The *Kalida Venture* of March 21, 1848, contains the following notice: "There will be a meeting of the Kalida Lyceum held on the evening of March 28. The question for debate will be 'Ought all laws for the collection of debts be repealed.'"

A WONDERFUL RAIL FENCE.

A short time ago, John F. Clevenger, of Columbus Grove, made an interesting discovery while tearing out an old rail fence. He found no less than thirty-two different kinds of timber represented in the old fence row and the enumeration of this varied assortment of timber throws an interesting light upon the character of the early forests of Putnam county. The complete list of trees which were represented in this wonderful rail fence is as follows: Buckeye, native poplar, Lombardy poplar, Carolina poplar, black locust, honey locust, black ash, white ash, burr oak, red oak, white oak, jack oak, beech, sugar, maple, sycamore, pawpaw, dogwood, ironwood, linden, willow, cottonwood, black walnut, white walnut, shellbark hickory, smoothbark hickory, white and red elm.

COLORED PEOPLE IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

The colored man has never been a welcome resident in Putnam county and at the present time there are none living in the county. However, there

have been a few colored people here in the past and history records that at least one colored man, by the name of Mines, voted in Blanchard township. This particular son of Africa worked for William Guy.

THE FIRST DEED RECORDED IN PUTNAM COUNTY, 1827.

"United States to Henry Wing.

"Certificate No. 427. The United States of America :

"To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come Greeting :

"Whereas Henry Wing, of Putnam County, Ohio, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of The Land Office at Piqua, Ohio, whereby it appears that Full Payment has been made by the said Henry Wing according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820 entitled, 'An Act making further provisions for the sale of the Public Lands for The North fraction of the North half of Section fourteen, in township one North of Range six east in the district of lands offered for sale at Piqua, Ohio, containing twenty-one acres and thirty-hundredths of an acre, according to the office plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the land office by the Surveyor General,' which said tract has been purchased by the said Henry Wing.

"Now, Know Ye That the United States of America, in consideration of the promises and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, Have Given and Granted, and by these presents Do Give and Grant unto the said Henry Wing and his heirs the said tract described; To have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights and privileges immunities and appertinances, of whatsoever nature Thereunto belonging, unto the said Henry Wing and to his heirs and assigns forever.

"In Testimony Whereof I, John Quincy Adams, President of the United States of America, have caused These letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

"Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, The thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-first.

"By the President, J. Q. A.

"G. G. Commissioner of the General Land Office.

"Recorded Vol. 60, page 421, Ohio Vol."

SALOONS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

When the present liquor law went into effect in the fall of 1913, there were thirty-two saloons in Putnam county. Since the number is now restricted to one for every thousand inhabitants, there are only nineteen saloons. They are distributed as follows: Five in Ottawa, two in Continental and one each in the towns of Ottoville, Ft. Jennings, Cloverdale, Gilboa, Kalida, Glandorf, Miller City and West Leipsic. In addition, there is one saloon in Monterey township and one in Jennings township. These two saloons are really in the towns of Ottoville and Ft. Jennings, respectively, but the boards of both towns changed the corporation lines so that the saloons would legally be in the township. There is a saloon in Liberty township, just outside of the corporate limits of Leipsic, and another in Pleasant township, adjoining the corporation of Columbus Grove. Leipsic and Columbus are both "dry" as the result of local option elections.

Saloon licenses are now granted by a county liquor licensing board appointed by the governor. The first appointees for Putnam county were Frank Gmeiner and Walter Stevenson, both of whom received their commissions on April 6, 1913. Mr. Stevenson resigned on April 1, 1915, his resignation taking effect on the 15th of the same month. The members receive the nominal sum of twenty dollars a month for their services. When the law went into effect, in October, 1913, there were thirty-two saloons in the county and fifty applications before the board for the nineteen saloons which was the limit allowed by the law. Each applicant must pay five dollars at the time of application, and, if granted, he must pay a county tax of one thousand dollars and a government tax of twenty-five dollars. A renewal or transfer costs sixty dollars.

THE GREATEST FLOOD OF OTTAWA.

In the latter part of March, 1913, Ottawa emerged from the greatest flood of its history. No loss of life occurred. The hungry waters got no victims. The loss in dollars ran into hundreds of thousands. The town was swept by water many feet deep. Out of the darkness of Monday night, March 24, 1913, came the rising, rushing, raging flood. Swift and sure it went high, then higher, then highest in the history of the town. Homes had to be deserted, and on Tuesday morning the town sent out a cry for help. The quiet citizen saw the need of quick and daring action. As the night brings out the stars, so did the flood bring out the good there is in men. No

one faltered. The man from the common walks of life became the real hero. Wind, water, cold and storm were laughed at by men who met the occasion and were equal to the task. All railways were paralyzed. Boats were lacking. Travel was at a standstill. But lightning flashed a message over the wires, and soon men, boats, food and help were on the way. From Leipsic, Columbus Grove, Lima, Toledo, St. Marys and other places relief came at double quick. That it did, was a blessing, for Ottawa was in dire distress and sore need. Out of the whole situation came a spirit of humanity, heroism, and helpfulness that was almost sublime. Lives were risked to save other lives. Property was secondary and the welfare of human beings was the first concern.

Farmers came with wagon loads of supplies of food and fuel. This kindly action was of their own motion. They did not wait to be asked to help. On this Sunday morning, Ottawa has the appearance of a flood-swept town. Wreckage, debris, washouts, and a hundred tokens showed the power of little drops of water when angry and united into torrents and currents.

THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

When Putnam county was organized in 1834, the Democratic and Whig parties were just getting definitely separated. The twenty years preceding this time had seen only one party, the Democratic, and whatever differences existed politically were personal. Adams, Jackson and Clay ran for President on the same ticket, their followers being known as Adams, Jackson or Clay men.

In the early thirties the old Democratic party, dominated by the hero of the battle of New Orleans, began to disintegrate and by 1832 it was evident that Jackson's control of the party was fast slipping away from him. Clay, his greatest opponent, was forging to the front as a leader and seriously disputing the old warrior's leadership. It was in the midst of this new alignment of political parties that Putnam county came onto the scene of action, and both of the parties began to lay their plans to capture the township and county offices.

The history of political control in Putnam county may be very briefly summed up. The Democrats have been in complete control ever since the county was organized with the exception of a brief period when the Republicans elected three county officials. In 1852-53 there was a big effort made by the Whigs to gain control and with the aid of the disgruntled Democrats, they came very near succeeding. A secret organization, political in nature,

known as the Knownothings, came into existence at this time, which ostensibly sought to confine all offices to native-born Americans. Several lodges were organized in Putnam county, the largest being in Gilboa, Blanchard township. To combat this organization, the Democrats organized an equal number of lodges under the name of the "Sag Nichts" or "Say Nothings." Both organizations used all the tricks of seasoned politicians, but the result terminated favorably to the Democrats in the succeeding election.

The decade preceding the Civil War was one of great strife in political matters and scores of anti-slavery Democrats left the old party and allied themselves with the new Republican party. However, the supremacy of the Democrats was never seriously threatened, in Putnam county, although its majorities were cut down. From 1855 to the opening of the war, the tension in political affairs was often at the breaking point, and it took cool heads to keep matters from degenerating into open encounters at times. Following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act, the Whig party went out of existence and in the two following years the Democratic party lost hundreds of thousands of its leaders in the Northern states. In Ohio the new party at first styled itself the Union party, and later hyphenated itself into the Union-Republican party. Although many of the Democrats joined the new party, there was a corresponding shift from the old Whig party to the Democrats, the defection being due to the slavery question. The net result was that the Democrats were able to maintain their hold on political affairs in the county.

While ante-bellum politics were in such a seething state, there were large political gatherings in every town and village of the county and enthusiasm often outran men's better judgment. The greatest gathering, however, occurred the second year after the close of the war. It was held in Ottawa, on September 19, 1867, and Hon. Clement L. Vallandigham was the orator of the day. The newspapers of the day said that there were twenty thousand people present and that the parade was two and a half miles in length. It consisted of decorated floats, wagons, horsemen, bands, etc., and must have been an imposing spectacle. Many big meetings have been held since then, but none to compare with this particular one in magnitude.

Like other counties in the state of Ohio, Putnam has had its Prohibition, Socialist, Progressive, Independent and People's parties, yet they have been but as "side shows" traveling with the two great parties. As has been said, the Democrats have always been in power in the county, with the exception of a short time. At one time (in the early nineties) some Democratic officials became derelict in their duties and three of them were sent to the penitentiary. The people rose up in their might and elected a Republican county treasurer,

prosecuting attorney and clerk for two years each and a county auditor for two terms of three years each.

CELEBRATION OVER THE VICTORY OF DEWEY.

The most enthusiastic celebration ever held in Ottawa followed the receipt of the news of Dewey's bloodless victory at Manila bay, May 1, 1898. The celebration occurred the night of May 2, and for hours bells were rung, whistles blown and general pandemonium reigned. Red-fire lighted up the main streets and a happy people gave vent to their heartfelt appreciation of Admiral Dewey and his splendid victory.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION.

The greatest Fourth of July celebration ever held in the county occurred in 1876. Ottawa and Columbus Grove both celebrated that year and each town tried to outdo the other and get the largest crowd. For weeks before that day, both towns used every effort to advertise their attractions and a number of unusual features were promised by the committees who had charge of affairs in the respective towns. As might be expected, Ottawa had the largest crowd, although Columbus Grove was not far behind in point of attendance. The crowd at Ottawa was estimated at from twelve to fifteen thousand people, and such another celebration was never held before or since. More noise was made, more popcorn consumed, more lemonade drunk and more powder burned on that day than any other in the history of the town.

POPULATION STATISTICS.

	1910	1900	1890
Blanchard township, including Gilboa village ----	1,605	1,778	1,688
Gilboa village -----	345	346	264
Greensburg township -----	1,078	1,211	1,098
Jackson township -----	1,113	1,308	1,235
Jennings township, including Fort Jennings village -----	1,620	1,787	1,741
Fort Jennings village -----	336	322	286
Liberty township, including West Leipsic village -----	1,608	2,775	2,607
West Leipsic village -----	253	346	502
Monroe township, including Continental village -----	2,139	2,775	2,607

	1910	1900	1890
Continental village	1,074	1,104	895
Monterey township, including Ottoville village---	1,652	1,711	1,507
Ottoville village	477	369	---
Ottawa township, including Glandorf and Ottawa villages	3,805	4,207	3,381
Glandorf village	558	749	571
Ottawa village	2,182	2,322	1,717
Palmer township, including Miller City village---	1,612	1,990	1,804
Miller City village	218	163	---
Perry township, including Cloverdale and Dupont village	1,581	1,736	1,710
Cloverdale village	222	---	---
Dupont village	334	370	531
Pleasant township, including Columbus Grove vil- lage	3,194	3,401	3,286
Columbus Grove village	1,802	1,935	1,677
Riley township, including Pandora village-----	1,975	1,831	1,566
Pandora village	502	409	---
Sugar Creek township	1,337	1,416	1,429
Union township, including Kalida village	1,810	1,619	1,482
Kalida village	770	622	444
Van Buren township, including Belmore and Leipsic villages	3,534	3,687	3,444
Belmore village	298	334	414
Leipsic village	1,773	1,720	1,353
Total	29,972	32,525	30,188

The population of Putnam county for the decades prior to 1890 was as follows: 1830, 230; 1840, 5,189; 1850, 7,221; 1860, 12,808; 1870, 17,081; 1880, 23,713.

HIGHWAY STATISTICS.

The following highway statistics are taken from the last annual report of James R. Marker, state highway commissioner of Ohio, issued on March 15, 1915. The first table exhibits the mileage and type of roads in the county outside of the municipalities.

Type of Road.	Total	Inter-Co.		
	Miles January 1, 1915.	Imp. Roads March 15, 1915.	Roads on January 11, 1915.	Roads Imp. by State.
Concrete -----	----	----	----	0.61
Macadam -----	467	498	101.4	6.08
Gravel -----	110	90	15.8	0
Earth -----	590	0	11.1	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	1,167	588	128.3	6.69

The statement of road and bridge expenditures for the four years (1910-1913) discloses the fact that the county has spent nearly three hundred and fifty thousand dollars in that short time on roads and bridges. The figures for 1913 include all expenditures up to and including August 31, 1914, paid out by the county commissioners and township trustees, exclusive of the money expended by the state.

	1910	1911	1912	1913
Road repairs -----	\$ 25,956	\$20,058	\$ 388	\$ 2,387
Road construction -----	82,379	50,304	17,127	93,277
Bridge and culvert repairs	1,531	1,788	4,202	2,925
Bridge & Culvert construc'n	6,216	3,536	5,849	14,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	\$116,082	\$75,686	\$27,566	\$112,794



John Edwards,

BIOGRAPHICAL

JOHN EDWARDS.

In the golden sayings of Epictetus there is no nobler utterance than this: "What wouldst thou be found doing when overtaken by Death? If I might choose, I would be found doing some deed of true humanity, of wide import, beneficent and noble. But if I may not be found engaged in aught so lofty, let me hope at least for this—what none may hinder, what is surely in my power—that I may be found raising up in myself that which had fallen; learning to deal more wisely with the things of sense; working out my own tranquillity, and thus rendering that which is due to every relation of life.

"If death surprise me thus employed, it is enough if I can stretch forth my hands to God and say, 'The faculties which I received at Thy hands for apprehending this Thine administration, I have not neglected. As far as in me lay, I have done Thee no dishonor. Behold how I have used the senses, the primary conceptions which Thou gavest me. Have I ever laid anything to Thy charge? Have I ever murmured at aught that came to pass, or wished it otherwise? Have I in anything transgressed the relations of life? For that Thou didst beget me, I thank Thee for that Thou hast given; for the time during which I have used the things that were Thine, it suffices me. Take them back and place them wherever Thou wilt! They were all Thine, and Thou gavest them me. If a man depart thus minded, is it not enough? What life is fairer or more noble, what end happier than his?'"

The above impressive thoughts are suggested by a review of the life of the late John Edwards, of this county, whose passing in the year 1901 was the occasion of such general and sincere mourning throughout this whole region. In making up a history of Putnam county it would be impossible to disregard the great part which Mr. Edwards took in the industrial and financial development of the commonwealth, a part the value of which to the community the present historian hardly dare estimate, for the service which

he gave was cumulative in its value, its effects being still widely apparent and growing in value, even as the enterprises which he promoted in his life are growing in extent. It therefore must be left to the future historian to attempt a proper estimate of the service which Mr. Edwards rendered to his community, the present reviewer contenting himself with the presentation here of those interesting biographical facts in the career of the late deceased which now have become a part of the common interest of this people.

On other pages of this volume, in the biographical sketches relating to his elder brother, William W. Edwards, also deceased, and his surviving brother, Joseph H. Edwards, the well-known banker at Leipsic, the genealogy of the Edwards family in this country is set out at informative length and it therefore will be sufficient to say here that the late John Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 27, 1850, a son of Thomas W. and Isabel Edwards, and when but eight years of age moved with his parents to Morrow county, in the same state, the family, in the year 1861, coming to Putnam county, where they settled on a farm in section 27, Van Buren township, and there John Edwards grew to manhood, receiving the training and acquiring the unusual physical vigor which later and during his life of active service stood him in such good stead.

Mr. Edwards' early manhood was spent on his father's farm, his larger business career not beginning until he was twenty-eight years of age. This was in 1878, in which year he purchased an interest in the stave manufacturing business of Henry and Jonas Lenhart. In 1886, the great possibilities of this business having then become apparent, the company was enlarged and Mr. Edwards, in association with his brother, William W. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten, organized the Buckeye Stave Company, of which Joseph H. Edwards soon after became a member. The growth of this business was phenomenal, the energy and far-sighted business sagacity of the directors thereof soon making it one of the most extensive enterprises in this section of Ohio. Originally the company owned mills only at Leipsic, Continental and Columbus Grove, in this county, but in 1890 a mill was added at Pleasant Bend; in 1891 mills were located at Kalida and at Avis; in 1892 at Elm Center and at Mancelona, Michigan, and in 1894 at Gladstone, Michigan. The business grew by leaps and bounds, until, at the time of Mr. Edwards' death in 1901, the company owned twenty-three mills in Ohio and southern Michigan and was interested in five more in the northern peninsula of Michigan, the company at that time employing more than a thousand men and being recognized as the largest stave com-

pany in the world. In addition to its great manufacturing interests, the Buckeye Stave Company extensively engaged in the banking business. In 1887 the company purchased the bank at Leipsic and in 1891 established the bank at Continental, both in this county, the same being operated as private concerns, the stock controlled by the stockholders of the stave company, the Edwards connection later extending its banking interests to Toledo and Findlay, Ohio. In all his large and growing business activities Mr. Edwards gave himself unsparingly. From the very inception of this business he displayed an untiring zeal in the extension of the company's affairs, continually taking a most active and important part in the development of the business. His untimely death, on September 30, 1901, was a great blow to the company as well as a real shock to the community. Taken at the age of fifty-one, in the very prime of his life, it was difficult for many to reconcile themselves to what they regarded as his untimely departure, and he was sincerely mourned.

To the death of John Edwards the noble Epictetan concept which introduces this biography seems peculiarly applicable. He indeed had been true in all the relations of life, diligent in business, serving the Lord, and in his passing he left a memory which long shall be honored in the community which knew him so well. Though his life was one of commonplace beginnings, in its entirety it was far from commonplace. Endowed by nature with an excellent physique and a most gracious and engaging personality, he was a natural leader of men and his great business success hardly could have been otherwise. Greater, however, than his mere outward endowments were those fine traits of character which made him a strong and an upright man. Possessed of exceptional executive ability and far-sightedness in matters of business policy, together with a native will-power and a habit of constantly striving to do more and to do it better, he was successful in business far beyond the measure of the success of the average man. This success was not achieved, however, at the expense of character, but rather because of character. Of his honesty and sincerity much could be said, for they were essential characteristics with him. His kindliness of heart and generosity of nature were traits that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. This generosity found expression, not only in countless private benefactions of which the public had no information, for Mr. Edwards was not one to let his right hand know what his left was doing in such matters, but colleges, churches and many worthy institutions found him a liberal giver. He, indeed, gave a good account "for the time during which I have used the things

that were Thine," and it sufficed him. He regarded himself as a mere steward of the great worldly wealth which was given him and sought ever to govern his giving accordingly. In a quiet way he also was public-spirited and his influence was always exerted in behalf of such measures of public concern as promised the greatest advancement of the common weal, the weight of his counsels ever being on the side of the right. With quiet reticence, the charming modesty of the truly great, Mr. Edwards avoided all ostentation and, despite the power which his wealth inevitably gave him, was kindly and considerate to all, so that in his passing there was sincere mourning among all classes. Working out his own tranquillity, he thus had rendered that which is due to every relation of life.

On August 21, 1873, John Edwards was united in marriage to Mary E. Lenhart, who was born a mile west of Leipsic, in this county, the daughter of Henry S. and Adaline (Braucht) Lenhart, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Hancock county, Ohio, in his young manhood and there married Adaline Braucht, who was born in that county, a member of one of the pioneer families. In 1854 the Lenharts came to this county and located on a farm west of the town of Leipsic, where Mrs. Lenhart died in 1869. Mr. Lenhart married a second time, taking as his wife Mrs. Anna (McConnell) Reed, and moved into Leipsic where his death occurred in 1904.

To John and Mary E. (Lenhart) Edwards were born four sons, Henry Clyde, Thomas Charles, William Earl and Oliver Pearl, the latter of whom are twins. Henry C. Edwards, who lives on an extensive ranch in Texas, married Bertha Hadsell and has one son, Max Hadsell, now sixteen years of age. Thomas C. Edwards, who represents his late father's interest in the bank at Leipsic, married Blanche Patterson, of Manchester, Ohio, to which union were born four children, John Leon, Thomas Robert, Mary Elizabeth and Janet Virginia. William E. Edwards is a teacher in the high school at Leipsic and Oliver P. Edwards, who is one of the leading directors of the celebrated Temco Electric Motor Company at Leipsic, married Josephine Niblick, of Decatur, Indiana, and has one daughter, Harriet.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards reared their children in the faith of the Methodist church and were warmly interested in all the various beneficences of that organization. Mr. Edwards was one of the church's most zealous supporters and took an earnest part in its numerous lines of activity, giving not only liberally of money, but unsparingly of his time and the benefit of his great business ability, and the local congregation felt a sense of real bereavement upon his passage from this life.

CHARLES H. JONES.

Among the worthy citizens of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, whose residence here has contributed in no small degree to the prestige of the county, is Charles H. Jones, a well-known manufacturer. While laboring for his individual interests, he has not forgotten his obligations to the public, and his support of worthy measures and movements can always be depended upon. Although his life has been a busy one, his private affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his obligations as a citizen and a neighbor. Through long years of residence in this locality, he has ever been true to the trusts reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature. His reputation, in a business way, is unassailable. Possessing in a marked degree those sterling traits which command uniform confidence and regard, he is today honored by all who know him and numbered among the representative men of Putnam county.

Charles H. Jones was born at Troy, Ohio, May 24, 1861. He is a son of Jeremiah F. and Martha Jane (Hart) Jones. The Joneses were natives of Wales. John Jones was born in Virginia, and emigrated to Bath county, Kentucky, where he married a Miss Greene. To this union were born eleven children, Oliver, Goldsbury, John, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, George, Zechariah, Elihu, Artimesia, Isabella and Salem. George Jones was born in Bath county, Kentucky, June 9, 1808, and emigrated to Miami county, Ohio, about 1826. He was married in 1829 to Eleanor Gearhart, whose parents were originally natives of Germany. Henry Gerhart was born in Washington county, Maryland, about 1767, and married Barbara Young. They emigrated to Rockbridge county, West Virginia, and were the parents of the following children, John, William, Anna, Elizabeth, Eleanor, Henry, Lewis and Joseph. Eleanor was born in Rockbridge county, West Virginia, September 5, 1810, and emigrated with her parents to Miami county, Ohio, in 1816. She was married to George Jones in 1829. To this union five children were born, Jeremiah Fuson, Samantha Isabella, Simeon Gearhart, Anna Tabitha and Melyn Baker.

Jeremiah Fuson Jones was born on December 31, 1832. He married Martha Jane Hart, April 10, 1885. The Hart family were natives of New Jersey. John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was one of the progenitors of the Hart family. Charles Hart was born in New Jersey, about 1770, and married a Miss Chamberlin. He emigrated with his family to Miami county, Ohio, about 1806. He and his wife were the parents of four children, Ellen, William Levi, Wilson and Henry.

William L. Hart was born in New Jersey, in 1810, and emigrated with his parents to Ohio. He was married to Margaret Julien about 1832, a lady of French extraction, of Miami county, Ohio. They were the parents of several children, Martha Jane, Justin Cyprian, John Lyman Beecher, Charles, Clarence Edgar and Alice, the last two named being twins.

Martha Jane Hart was born in Miami county, Ohio, May 22, 1834, and married Jeremiah Fuson Jones, as stated above. To this union four children were born, Ada Luella, Delia Doris, Charles H. and George Edgar.

Jeremiah Fuson Jones attended the country schools, until he reached the age of eighteen, and then undertook a course in Linden Hill Academy, at New Carlisle, Ohio, at that time, under the direction of Prof. Thomas Harrison, a graduate of Oxford University, England. Mr. Jones remained in this school for two years, and in the fall of 1853, began to teach school in Champaign county, Ohio, after which he taught one year in the schools of Miami county, Ohio, and continued teaching here until 1863, when he removed to Putnam county, where he was employed as superintendent of the public schools, at Delphos. Professor Jones held this position until 1867, when he moved to Anderson, Indiana, and became principal of the first ward school, of that city. He became superintendent of the Pendleton, Indiana, schools in January, 1868, and after one year in that place, returned to Delphos, Ohio, where he was superintendent of the schools for three years. Mr. Jones became superintendent of the schools at Columbus Grove, Ohio, in 1875, which position he filled for some years. Professor Jones retired from the educational field in 1883, having given thirty years of his life to that work. Before leaving the teaching profession in 1879, Mr. Jones had become interested in the manufacture of handles, a business in which he was to become associated with his sons, Charles H. and George E.

The factory at Columbus Grove specializes in second-growth hickory handles for tools and axes. All the handles are shaved and no turned handles are produced. The goods from this factory are sold all over the United States, chiefly on the Pacific coast. The firm name is now J. F. Jones' Sons, and is composed of C. H. Jones and George E. Jones. Charles H. Jones became a partner in 1884, and George E. Jones came into the firm about ten years later. About twenty years ago, J. F. Jones retired from the active management of the business and, since that time, has lived in Toledo, Ohio.

Charles H. Jones received his education in the schools at Columbus Grove, where he graduated. He has been engaged in the handle business since 1884. He is president of the Northern Ohio Cooperage & Lumber

Company, of Parkin, Arkansas, and is also engaged in numerous other business enterprises.

Charles H. Jones was married on June 23, 1887, to Alice Rebecca Wyman, who was born and reared at Sidney, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Judge N. R. and Mary Wyman. Her father's name was Nathan Russell Wyman, he was born in Vermont, in 1821, and moved to Ohio in 1840. Nathan Wyman was in business in Sidney, Ohio, for many years, and was prominent as a Democrat, having been probate judge for several terms. He was appointed superintendent of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home at Xenia, Ohio. At the time of his death, August 29, 1886, he was manufacturing buggy spokes in Sidney.

Her mother was Mary Hale Wyman, born in New York state in 1822, and died in Sidney, Ohio, November 3, 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. To this union two daughters have been born, Edith R. and Jeannette. Edith is a teacher of Latin and German in the Columbus Grove schools. She attended the Western College for Women, at Oxford, Ohio, and then attended Wooster University, where she graduated in 1910. She is also a graduate of the music department of the latter institution. Jeanette is a junior in the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Wisconsin. She is a member of the university orchestra. Previously, she took one year at Wooster.

Charles H. Jones is a Republican, and served four years as postmaster of Columbus Grove, during President Harrison's administration. He is a prominent Mason, having attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and takes an active interest in the work of that denomination, being a trustee of the church at this time, at Columbus Grove.

George Edgar Jones, the third member of the firm of J. F. Jones' Sons, was born March 24, 1872, at Delphos, Ohio. He grew to manhood at Columbus Grove, and after leaving the public schools, took a business course at Cincinnati, Ohio. He then entered business college, where he spent a short time at Chicago as an electrician. He became a member of the firm of J. F. Jones' Sons about 1894, and has devoted his time to this business since that date.

George Edgar Jones was married on May 22, 1894, to Grace Adelaide Dye, who was born at Columbus Grove, and who is a daughter of Willis Hance and Fannie Adelaide (Dann) Dye. Her father was a native of

Miami county, Ohio, and her mother a native of New Haven, Connecticut. Mrs. Jones' parents moved to Putnam county forty-one years ago, from Sidney, where they had lived one year after their marriage. They lived at Columbus Grove until the death of Mrs. Dye in 1899, after which Mr. Dye moved to Van Wert, Ohio, and engaged in the grocery business. From there he went to Florida, where he is now living. He was engaged in the grocery business during all the time he was living in Columbus Grove, except ten years, which were devoted to the interests of a milling business.

To Mr. and Mrs. George E. Jones three children have been born, Granville Dye, Robert Edgar and Jeremiah Franklin. Granville is now a junior at the University of Michigan, and prior to going there, was a student at the University of Wooster for one year. George E. Jones and family are active and earnest members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Jones is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the thirty-second degree, in that time-honored order. He is also a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The Jones family is among the best known of Putnam county, they are leaders in the commercial, religious and social life of this section of Putnam county, and are well worthy of representation in the annals of their county.

JUDGE JULIUS SINCLAIR OGAN.

An attorney of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and one of the largest landowners of the county, is Judge Julius Sinclair Ogan, who has been a resident of Ottawa since the fall of 1882. He was born and reared in this county, and with the exception of the years which he spent in college, has lived his whole life within its precincts. After graduating from the classical course at Oberlin College, he graduated from the law department of Michigan University, and has been engaged in the active practice of his profession since 1878. He has never been an aspirant for public office, and has never held but one, being appointed judge of the common pleas court for a period of eleven months. He has preferred to give his time and attention to his private practice and to the management of his large landholdings in this county.

Julius S. Ogan, the son of Noah W. and Nancy (Custer) Ogan, was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 9, 1850. His father was born in Green county, Ohio, October 21, 1821, a son of Peter Ogan and

wife. Noah Ogan came to Putnam county about 1834 with his parents and located in Pleasant township and there he spent his youth and young manhood. After his marriage to Nancy Custer, a daughter of Daniel Custer and wife, Noah W. Ogan located on the farm next to that of his father, in Pleasant township, and lived there until the latter part of the fifties, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the grain and grocery business, remaining there until the opening of the Civil War. He enlisted, in September, 1861, and was made captain of Company K, Fourteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served for about three years, and was discharged after the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, on account of total disability, arising from the loss of his left arm. After the close of the war, Noah Ogan returned to Columbus Grove and engaged in various pursuits. He was engaged in the internal revenue service for some time, and also owned a farm near the village. He also practiced law in Columbus Grove, where he spent his declining years, his death occurring there on May 29, 1906. His first wife died about 1860, and some years later he married Emma Elliott. By his first marriage there were four children, two of whom died in infancy. The others were, Jennie, who became the wife of Daniel Henley, and lived in Cleveland, Ohio, until her death, and Julius S., whose history is here presented. By the second marriage of Noah W. Ogan were born two children, Servitus Wesley and Silas Jerome.

Julius S. Ogan grew to manhood, at Columbus Grove, and after receiving his elementary education in the schools of that village, he entered Oberlin College, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1876. He at once entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and graduated from the law course, in the spring of 1878. With this excellent training, it is no wonder that he was a successful lawyer, from the beginning. He began practicing at Columbus Grove immediately after his graduation, and he and his father were in partnership in that place, until 1882. In the fall of that year he moved to Ottawa and went in partnership with John M. Sheets, who has since become the attorney-general of Ohio. Mr. Sheets was elected common pleas judge in 1894, and at that time Mr. Ogan went into partnership with William H. Handy, who had just retired from the common pleas bench. Mr. Ogan and Mr. Handy continued in partnership until the latter part of 1905, when Mr. Ogan was appointed judge of the common pleas court. He held this office for about eleven months, and since then has practiced alone.

Mr. Ogan was married on December 25, 1882, to Estella Turner, who was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Will-

iam M. and Martha Jane (Kuhn) Turner. Her grandfather was probate judge and died soon after he went out of office. Mr. Ogan and his wife are the parents of five children, four of whom are living: William Wesley dying at the age of six. The four children are Martha Jane, Myrtle, Mildred and Julius S. Myrtle is the wife of Dr. Joseph Shaw, of Coshocton, Ohio, while the other two children are still living with their parents. Julius is now attending the Ohio State University at Columbus. Mildred married J. F. Donart, who is in the real estate and loan business at Ottawa.

Mr. Ogan was appointed a member of the Putnam county Building Committee in 1909, which had general charge of the construction of the new court house. He remained on this committee until the court house was finally completed and contributed his full share to the laborious duties of this committee. He is president of the Ottawa Home and Savings Association and one of its largest stockholders. He owns nine hundred and thirty acres of land in Putnam county, from which he derives a very profitable income annually. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council.

WILLIAM HENRY HANDY.

A distinguished citizen of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, a veteran of the Civil War and a former judge of the common pleas court, William Henry Handy is eminently entitled to representation in the history of his county. He enlisted for service in the Civil War, when he was only sixteen years of age, and served until the fall of 1865. Studying law, after the close of the war, he was admitted to the bar in 1868, and has been in continuous practice since that time. He has been a resident of Ottawa since the spring of 1894, and has taken active part in the life of the county seat of Putnam county since that time.

William Henry Handy, an attorney, of Ottawa, was born on January 29, 1847, in Pike township, Fulton county, Ohio. He is a son of Michael and Mary A. (Bryan) Handy. Michael Handy was born at Danby, Tompkins county, New York, in December, 1812, and was a son of Michael Handy, Sr., an old resident of the same county. The name was originally spelled Hendee, and two brothers with that name came from Wales during the seventeenth century, one settling in Vermont and the other in Virginia. William H. Handy is a descendant of the Hendee who located in Vermont.

Michael Handy, the father of William Henry, was a school teacher in Canada, but during the period of turmoil in that country was driven out and went to Algonac, Michigan, where he was married on September 22, 1836, to Mary A. Bryan. She, too, had been a teacher in Canada, and had come to Michigan, and she, likewise, was born in Tompkins county, New York, where her husband was born. In the winter of 1839-40, Michael Handy and wife moved from Michigan to Fulton county, Ohio, and located on a farm. He taught school, farmed and also cobbled shoes. He was a very industrious man and taught school by day and pegged shoes by night, and shook with the ague between times. In addition to his teaching school, shoemaking and farming, he also operated a blacksmith shop, did some cabinet making, and at odd times studied law, and it can be seen that he was a man of great industry and of no inconsiderable intellectual ability. After Putnam county was set off as a separate county in 1850 Michael Handy moved to Ottokee, the new county seat, and followed the practice of law. He moved to Wauseon, Ohio, in 1871, the new county seat of Fulton county, and lived there the remainder of his life. He served as prosecuting attorney of Fulton county, and also as mayor of Wauseon. He died on March 6, 1885, his wife having passed away on April 1, 1880.

William Henry Handy was educated in the schools of Fulton county, Ohio. When he was only sixteen years of age, on June 16, 1863, Mr. Handy enlisted in Company H, Eighty-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in for the six months' service. After serving in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, he was discharged on February 10, 1864. He re-enlisted, April 15, of the same year, in Company H, Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in continuous service until September 10, 1865, when he was discharged as sergeant. He served in the campaigns against Petersburg and Richmond, and was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

Immediately after the close of the war, Mr. Handy returned home and began the study of law with his father. He was admitted to the practice of law, at Toledo, Ohio, in 1868, being twenty-one years of age at the time. He took up the practice of his profession with his father at Ottokee, the county seat of Fulton county, Ohio, and the father and son practiced together until the first of January, 1875. At that time Mr. Handy and Frank H. Hurd started the *Democratic Expositor*, and operated this newspaper until in March, 1877, when it was sold to J. C. Balmeier. Mr. Handy at once returned to the practice of law at Wauseon, to which place his father had moved, upon the change of the county seat of Fulton county. He was

in the continuous practice of his profession, in Wauseon, until February 10, 1885, when he assumed the duties of common pleas judge, to which office he had been appointed by Governor Hoadly. He filled this office by appointment and election, until May 10, 1894, a period of more than nine years, during which time he gave satisfactory service to the citizens of the three counties which composed his jurisdiction. At that time Putnam, Fulton and Henry counties combined in one judicial district. At the expiration of his term of office, in the spring of 1894, Mr. Handy moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. He resumed the practice of his profession in partnership with A. S. Ogan, and the firm continued together until in December, 1899. At that time Mr. Unverferth became the partner of Mr. Handy.

Mr. Handy was married on October 16, 1869, to Isabelle J. Van Arsdale, who was born at Marseilles, Wyandot county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Marietta (Norton) Van Arsdale. Her parents moved to Ottokee about 1867, where she was living at the time of her marriage. Mr. Handy and his wife are the parents of three children, Harry L., Clive C. and May B. Harry married Maude Snyder, and is a locomotive engineer. Clive C. is an attorney in the legal department of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Company, at Cleveland. He married Herma Orth, of Wauseon, and has one son, William O. May B. is a stenographer, and makes her home in Ottawa with her parents.

Mr. Handy has long been a leading factor in Democratic politics, but he has never held any other position than that of judge of the common pleas court. He is a Free and Accepted Mason and has attained the Royal and Select Masters degree. He is a genial citizen, fond of a good joke, and well known, not only throughout Putnam county, but throughout this section of the state.

WILLIAM T. COLE.

A veteran of the Civil War and a business man of Leipsic for a quarter of a century, who was the postmaster of that city, William T. Cole had been connected with the history of Putnam county since 1869. He enlisted in the Civil War when he was sixteen years of age, and after his enlistment had expired re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. He came to this county in 1869 and after farming for three years, located in Leipsic, where he has clerked in various stores and engaged in business for himself for more than twenty-five years. He had been the postmaster of Leipsic since 1907.

William T. Cole, the son of Alonzo and Sarah (Caldwell) Cole, was born in what was then called Frankleton, now West Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, November 9, 1847. His father was born in Vermont and came to Columbus in childhood with his parents. His mother was born in Franklin county, Ohio, and was a daughter of William Caldwell and wife. His father was a life-long farmer.

Alonzo Cole was a school teacher in early life, and afterward engaged in farming. He moved to Delaware county, Ohio, while William T. was yet a child and remained there until 1871, when he moved to Putnam county. He bought a farm two miles east of Leipsic and farmed there until his declining years, when he retired and moved into Leipsic, where he died. Alonzo Cole and wife were the parents of nine children, Oscar, deceased; Charles, of Leipsic; Malissa, deceased, who was the wife of Justus Butler; Elisa, deceased, who was the wife of Mason Beardsley; Mary, the widow of George Whitman, who now lives with her daughter at Wheeling, West Virginia; William T., of Leipsic, deceased, and three children who died in infancy.

William T. Cole was reared in Delaware county, Ohio, and was living there at the time of the opening of the Civil War. He was large for his age and, although only sixteen, succeeded in becoming a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served with this company for four months around Washington, D. C., and was then discharged with his company. He returned home and went to school one winter and in the following March enlisted again in Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was sent with his regiment to Winchester, Virginia, where the regiment was divided up and his company sent to Fort Federal Hill, near Baltimore, and he remained there the seven months which elapsed until the close of the war.

After the close of the Civil War, Mr. Cole returned to his home in Delaware county and worked on a farm and in a saw-mill. He married in 1867 and located in Delaware county, but in 1869, he and his brother, Oscar, and two brothers-in-law, Justus Butler and George Whitman, came to Putnam county where the four of them bought a half section of land, two miles east of Leipsic. Mr. Cole cleared his share of the land, but only lived on it for three years. He then moved to Leipsic and engaged in business, and until he became postmaster in 1907, he was either clerking in stores in the city, or engaged in business for himself. He was commissioned postmaster of Leipsic, December 16, 1907, and was re-appointed in 1912 for four more years.

Mr. Cole was married on December 29, 1867, to Olive Critchet, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 18, 1851, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Susan (Slutz) Critchet. Her father was a farmer and for forty years was a justice of the peace in Licking county. To this union were born four children, two dying in infancy, and two sons, Alvin M. and Charles Ray, who are still surviving. Alvin M. was born on December 23, 1874, and is now assistant postmaster of Leipsic. He married Nellie Schroeder. Charles R., born July 23, 1880, is now a clerk in the postoffice. Charles married Nettie Altekruze, of Ottawa, and they have two daughters, Margaret and Thelma.

Mr. Cole and his wife and son, Ray, attended the Disciples church. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias. He had long been identified with the Republican party, and has served as township treasurer and township assessor, rendering his fellow citizens faithful and efficient service in both capacities. William T. Cole died on February 27, 1915.

WILLIAM LEWIS WERNER, M. D.

Although William Lewis Werner, M. D., has been a resident of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, since the spring of 1908, he has already built up a large practice in the city and surrounding community. He is a man of exceptional training, along medical lines, as is attested by the number of diplomas from many of the most eminent schools of medicine in the United States. Not only has Doctor Werner met with pronounced success as a physician, but he has also taken an active part in the civic life of his community.

William L. Werner, M. D., the son of Andrew and Catherine (Roth) Werner, was born at Eglon, Preston county, West Virginia, November 27, 1808. His father was born in Pennsylvania, and for many years engaged in the carpentering and contracting business and, in 1888, became the proprietor of a summer resort hotel at Eglon, West Virginia, which he managed until his wife's death, in 1906. A few years later he married again, and is now living a retired life at Kingwood, West Virginia. He and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. Andrew Werner served during the Civil War in the Union army.

Doctor Werner was reared in Preston county, West Virginia, where as a youth he engaged in mercantile pursuits for a short time. Later, he engaged in the same business, at Gormanias, in Grant county, West Virginia,

for a time. Doctor Werner graduated from the Thomas (West Virginia) high school in 1896, and in the following year entered the Eclectic Medical Institute, at Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating from that institution, in April, 1901.

Doctor Werner really began his practice before he completed his college course. At the end of his second year, he became an assistant to Dr. B. Baker, at Thomas, West Virginia, and at the end of his third year, was admitted to the practice of his profession in West Virginia. After he graduated in 1901, he returned to Thomas, where he continued the practice of medicine, until 1907. He built up a good practice in that place and became president of the State Eclectic Medical Association and a member of the pension examining board of his county. He was also physician for the poor in the Fairfax and Davis districts, and president of the county board of health.

Doctor Werner was not satisfied to discontinue his medical studies, in 1901, and since that time has taken many post-graduate courses in various schools throughout the country. He has taken a post-graduate course in the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine, during which time he pursued a general course for graduate physicians, and later, a special course in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He also took a special course in abdominal surgery and gynecology. He graduated from the National College of Electro-Therapeutics, in the subjects of electro-physics and electro-therapeutics. He took a general post-graduate course at Johns Hopkins University, in 1906, a school which ranks as the best post-graduate college in America, and it is evident, from Doctor Werner's post-graduate work, that he is eminently fitted for his chosen profession.

Doctor Werner permanently located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 5, 1908, where he has since continued his practice. It is needless to add that he has been successful from the beginning, and he finds his work constantly increasing. Since locating in Leipsic, he has taken an active part in the affairs of the community, and at the present time is a member of the school board. He is unusually well-equipped in his office for all kinds of medical work. He has a stock of drugs and does all of his prescription compounding. He has an oxyolene machine, which cost him nearly a thousand dollars; high frequency and X-ray machine, an electric vibrator, a fine equipment for optical examinations, a large and varied assortment of surgical instruments, and, in fact, everything which the twentieth-century physician and surgeon needs in general practice.

It is interesting to note that Doctor Werner was married before he was twenty-five years of age, and he attributes no small share of his wonderful

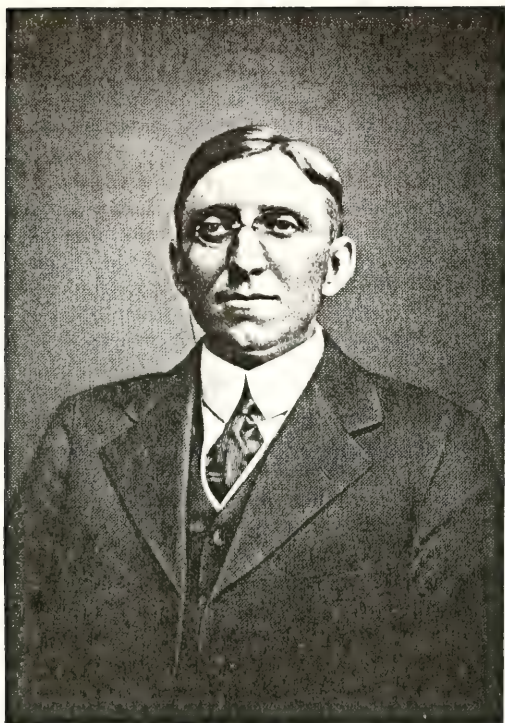
success to the inspiration of his wife. He was married on September 25, 1893, to Lucretia E. Chisholm, who was born in Garrett county, Maryland, in 1876, and is a daughter of Alexander and Emily Chisholm, of Scottish parentage. To this union have been born two children, Myrtle Lucile and William Lewis, Jr. Lucile married Fred C. Smith, of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Doctor Werner and his family are members of the Lutheran church and he holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has always taken a great interest in the state and national medical associations and makes it a point to keep in close touch with the latest developments in his profession. He has been particularly interested in the study of typhoid fever, its causes and treatment. While living in West Virginia, he was appointed, by the governor of the state, as delegate to the American Anti-Tuberculosis League, in 1907. Doctor Werner is still a young man and the success which has attended his efforts, thus far, indicates that he has a long and prosperous career before him.

ALDINE J. WELTY.

It is one of the outstanding features of our government that it acknowledges no hereditary rank or title, no patent of nobility, save that of nature, leaving every man to fix his own rank and to become the artificer of his own fortune. Places of honor, rank and preferment are thus happily placed before every individual, high or low, rich or poor, to be striven for by all, but earned alone by perseverance and sterling worth, and are almost always sure to be filled by deserving men, or at least by those possessing the energy and talent essential to success in contest for public position. Aldine J. Welty is a conspicuous example of the successful, self-made American citizen, who is not only eminently deserving of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens, but who also possesses the necessary energy and talent which fit him to discharge worthily the duties of the responsible place with which he has been charged. He is a man of vigorous mentality and strong mental fiber, and has found these qualities the chief factors in carving out a career above suspicion and reproach. He is an honor to the county, which he is so splendidly serving.

Aldine J. Welty, the well-known secretary of the Pandora Overall Company, and a young man of splendid business ability, was born January



J. M. Kelly

27, 1883, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John U. and Catherine (Thut) Welty, the former of whom is a native of Berne, Switzerland, born February 5, 1840, the son of John and Mary Ann (Gerber) Welty.

Aldine J. Welty grew up on the home farm and attended the old Mulberry district school until the age of seventeen, and then entered the Pandora high school from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one, with the class of 1904. He worked for a short time at the carpenter's trade and, subsequently, took a trip west, visiting the World's Fair, in St. Louis, in 1904, Denver, and thence to eastern Washington and other points. He remained in this portion of the west for about nine months and during a part of this time, taught school. Upon his return home, he engaged in teaching for five years and, during vacations, employed his time as a clerk in the store of David Lichty at Pandora.

Mr. Welty was married on June 25, 1907, at the age of twenty-five, to Mary B. Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz, and to this union three children have been born, Clyde Lawrence, Arthur Laurel, who died at the age of three months, and Leland J.

After his marriage, Mr. Welty continued to teach for one year, when he became affiliated with the Pandora Overall Company, first as a salesman and, later, as secretary and joint manager. He has been very successful in his business relations thus far, and is the largest employer of labor in Putnam county. Mr. Welty also has control of two other factories, one at Celina, and the other at Zanesville, Ohio, being engaged in business similar to that at Pandora.

Aldine J. Welty's grandfather was born at Berne, Switzerland, in 1804. He was a farmer in Switzerland and was considered well-to-do, for his time. In addition to being a farmer, he was a mechanical genius and an able carpenter. He came to America in 1845, landing at New York City after forty-five days on the water. He came direct to Ohio and settled shortly afterwards in Riley township, Putnam county, where he entered land from the government. This farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres, which Mr. Welty proceeded to clear and drain. He built a log cabin and other buildings, and it was here that he reared his family. There were twelve children, four of whom were born in Switzerland, Fred, who resides in Oklahoma; John U., the father of Aldine J.; David; Annie, the wife of Rev. Zimmerly; John, who lives in Oregon; Christian; Abraham, who also lives in Oregon; Fannie, the deceased wife of Abraham Reusser, of Kansas; Amos; Peter, who also resides in Oregon; Samuel, and Anna, the wife of Peter R. Graber,

of Kansas. In addition to rearing this splendid family of children, all of whom grew to maturity, and all of whom, except one, married, John Welty, Sr., reared four orphan children. One of them married his youngest son, Samuel. John Welty was a close friend and associate of the well-known Rev. John Moser. It is related that so close was their fellowship, they had but one pocketbook. It is further stated that John Welty never took a man's note for money loaned, depending entirely upon the man's sense of honor. He was a man who was strictly religious, and was one of the founders of the Mennonite church. He was universally respected and well known as a good man and an upright citizen. He had, according to a recent counting, one hundred and one grandchildren living. From time to time he added to his holdings until he accumulated eight hundred and forty acres of land.

The original Welty homestead was located in the southeastern corner of Putnam county. It was here that John U. Welty was brought by his parents, when five years old. Here he attended the typical log cabin school, and it was here that he grew to manhood. This country, at that time, was heavily timbered, and almost totally under water. He remained with his people until he was twenty-seven years old, and at times worked for neighboring farmers. It is related that the greatest compensation he received at any time for his labors, was one hundred and five dollars, and a suit of clothes. At the age of twenty-seven, he was married to Catherine Thut, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, September 18, 1842, the daughter of Peter L. and Elizabeth (Burkholder) Thut, also pioneers of Allen county. The Thut family had come from Switzerland, and comprised a number of deeply religious people. The Burkholder family was known for its thrift and economy.

After John U. Welty was married, he moved to a farm of his father's, two and one-half miles east of Pandora, which he later purchased of his father. Eight acres of this land was cleared and had a log cabin and barn upon it, and it was here that he reared his family of six children, all of whom are living, and where he is living at the present time. His children follow: Amos, who married Margaret Suter, has seven children and lives in Marinette, Wisconsin. Menno, who resides in Reedley, California, married Anna Schragg, and has three sons. Elias, who lives in Pandora, married Elizabeth Amstutz, and has six children. Elizabeth, who is the wife of Albert B. Hilty, of Riley township, has four children. William, who resides on the home place, married Ella Bracy, and has three children. Aldine J. is the subject of this sketch.

John U. Welty has been a very successful man. He has accumulated

considerable money and property aside from his farm holdings. He suffered a great misfortune, on May 19, 1900, when his wife passed away. For years she had been in delicate health. She was a kind and affectionate woman, and throughout her life had been a great sufferer, but bore it all uncomplainingly, and was the light and sunshine of her home.

Aldine J. Welty has been prominent in Democratic politics in Putnam county for many years. He is at present a central committeeman and was a prominent candidate for delegate to the national Democratic convention, at Baltimore, in 1912. In December, of that year, he was appointed on a committee of ten, from Ohio, to confer at Washington, D. C., with August Belmont and other Democratic leaders. He performed efficient service for his party on this committee. Mr. Welty is also one of the organizers of the town and township Democratic Club. In recognition of Mr. Welty's services to the Democratic party, President Wilson sent him his autographed photograph. During Bryan's campaign, in the fall of 1912, Mr. Welty was a member of the entertainment committee in his congressional district. For the past seven years Mr. Welty has been secretary of the Grace Mennonite church, of which the entire family are members. For two years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school. He is secretary of the lecture board of his own town and also vice-president of the school board.

Aldine J. Welty is a young man who has traveled extensively, from ocean to ocean, and has added to his already good education by both study and travel. He is always to be found behind any movement pertaining to the progress or betterment of the community. He is a man of the cleanest character and the very highest ideals. Possessed of splendid executive ability, as he is, and with his natural capacity for leadership, he is expected to become one of the leading factors of the Democratic party in the state of Ohio. He is eminently equipped for work of this character.

W. M. GEORGE.

More and more, every year, the public is realizing the importance of maintaining a complete and accurate record of the proceedings of the county courts. Upon the accuracy and thoroughness of these local records much depends, as the vital interests of future generations may seriously hinge, some time, upon the preservation today of items of record that may, in themselves, seem trivial. The importance, therefore, of having some one in the

office of the clerk of the county courts who, by training and inclination, is given to thoroughness and studious attention to even the most minor details of his office, cannot be over estimated. That Putnam county, in recent years, has been fortunate in securing the valuable services of such a public servant in the office of the clerk of courts, is a matter of general congratulation in the county, it being felt that the records of these important courts are safe in the hands of the present incumbent. That the people of the county were satisfied with the selection they had made of such a public servant, was made plainly evident by the flattering re-election of W. M. George, at the last election to the office which, for one term, he had filled with such eminent satisfaction to the general public, particularly to those whose greater interest it is to know that the records of the county courts are being properly preserved, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present a brief and modest review of the life's history of the gentleman whose name forms the caption* for this interesting biographical sketch.

W. M. George, clerk of the court of Putnam county, Ohio, and perhaps one of the best-known and most popular county officials that ever held office in the court house, was born on October 16, 1867, in Van Buren township, Putnam county, the son of John H. and Mary M. (French) George, the former of whom was a native of Germany, born on March 13, 1834, and who died on August 22, 1812, and the latter of whom was born, in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 22, 1834, and is still living at her home, in Belmore, this county.

John H. George, who, in his day, was one of the best-known farmers and business men, in Putnam county, was born in Kreis-Dill, Germany, the son of John and Mary (Kemper) George, parents of four children, and, in 1852, when eighteen years of age, came to America. He landed in New York and soon made his way to Ohio. He had learned wagon-making in his native land and for two years worked at this trade in Crawford county, Ohio. He went to Hancock county in the spring of 1854, where he worked at his trade, until 1862. In the meanwhile, in 1855, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. French, daughter of Grover French, a farmer of Irish descent, who died in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1857, his widow surviving until March, 1884, when she died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George at the age of ninety years. Grover French and wife were the parents of seven children, John, a United Brethren minister; Elizabeth; Mrs. Lucinda Wickham, of Belmore; George, a United Brethren minister, at Bentonville, Ohio; Renben; Mary M. (Mrs. George) and Sarah. Of these only the mother of the subject of this sketch now survives.

To John H. and Mary M. (French) George were born seven children, Genevre, who married Peter Zeller, a carpenter; Sarah A., who married L. Swaninger, and was the mother of two children: Reuben, a well-known hardware merchant, of Belmore, this county; Elizabeth, who married William Cook, a Putnam county farmer; Grover, who died at the age of seventeen; William M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, now clerk of the courts of Putnam county, and Ida, who died at the age of seventeen. After his marriage, John H. George continued to work at his trade in Hancock county, as above stated, until the spring of 1862, when he came to Putnam county and bought a tract of eighty acres of land in the woods, on which he built a cabin. He had cleared about twenty acres and had placed the same under cultivation when he entered the Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, as a substitute, and was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. He was with General Sherman in his famous march to the sea, was in a number of severe skirmishes, and fought in the last two battles in which his regiment took part as the war was drawing to a close. He was mustered out, at Louisville, Kentucky, and, at Cleveland, Ohio, received his honorable discharge.

At the close of the war, Mr. George resumed the pursuits of peace, re-entering, with unimpaired energy and ambition, upon the interrupted task of clearing his little farm, in Putnam county. This same energy marked his course all through his life and he added to his farm holdings from time to time until he, presently, was the possessor of more than four hundred acres of well-improved land. In addition to managing his large agricultural interests in this county, Mr. George found time to engage in various other business enterprises, though occasionally he met with some reverses, especially in the way of paying off securities, his well-known generosity several times having caused him losses in this direction. Running a brewery in Ottawa, also, was an enterprise in which he met with a disastrous loss, by fire. In partnership with Captain Matthias in 1891, he opened a hardware store in Belmore, in which place he owned considerable residence property.

The elder George always was a Democrat and was active in the local campaigns of his party, his counsels ever having weight with the party managers in the county. He served two terms as justice of the peace, six years as county commissioner and, in 1880, was land appraiser. In addition to these public honors, he had filled several minor positions of public trust. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church, while his wife was a member of the Evangelical church. John H. George was a man of large influence in his neighborhood and his memory is cherished by many in the

community in which he so long and so usefully labored. In these labors he ever found a faithful helpmate in his devoted wife, and his widow, who still survives, is the object of the sincere affection of the entire Belmore neighborhood, all the people of which hold her in the very highest esteem.

With two such parents it could hardly have been otherwise with W. M. George than that he should grow up bulwarked by habits of study and industry. Reared upon the farm, under the careful training of his father, he received full instruction in the rudiments of profitable agriculture and, at the same time acquired studious habit, so that the course in the public schools served as a stimulant to further scholastic ambitions. Finishing the course in the local schools, he attended college, at Ada, Ohio, and, in 1888, began teaching school. For two years he did work in this line in the district schools of Van Buren township, his services in this capacity proving so satisfactory to the school authorities, that he was elevated to the position of superintendent of the schools at Belmore. Here he served with much satisfaction to the patrons of the school for a period of three years, making an excellent reputation for himself in school circles in the county. He also, about this time, was interested, with his father, in the management of a store at Belmore. During President Cleveland's second administration, he was postmaster at Belmore, being at the same time engaged in the grocery business there. Shortly after the close of this term of service, Mr. George decided to take up farming as a definite life's work and, following out this design, engaged in active farm work in the Belmore neighborhood, in which he met with marked success. At the same time, his acquaintance over the county was growing and his earnest and useful activities, in local Democratic campaigns, began to gain the recognition of the party managers, who presently found in him one of the most aggressive political forces in the county. It was fitting, therefore, that in the campaign of 1909, Mr. George should receive the nomination of his party for the office of clerk of the court. His well-recognized qualifications for the proper discharge of the duties of this office, made his election a foregone conclusion, and he took office in 1911. The capable manner in which he handled the affairs of this important office insured his re-nomination, to succeed himself, and he was re-elected, in 1912, his term of office being due to expire, in August, 1915.

In September, 1890, Mr. George was united in marriage with Miss Lida Fisher, who was born near Monroeville, Indiana, June 13, 1870, the daughter of Andrew J. and Nancy (Baker) Fisher. The Fishers had moved from Indiana to Ohio, in the year 1874, and for many years, thereafter, lived in Belmore, later moving to Paulding county, where Mrs. Fisher died. Mr.

Fisher remarried and now lives in Van Wert. Lida Fisher grew up at Belmore and, after finishing her school course, became a teacher in the public schools of her home town, being also a teacher of music, both vocal and instrumental. In the work of the public schools, she and Mr. George, who was superintendent of the Belmore schools, for some time, were closely associated, and this association developed into a romance which led to the happy marriage.

To William M. and Lida (Fisher) George seven children have been born, John H., who married Laura Feutermacher, and lives on a farm in Van Buren township, Putnam county; Nanna C. married Julian C. Brown and lives near Hamler, in Marion township, Henry county, Ohio; Bernice, Bernard J., Delia, Noel and Dale are still at home and make merry the fire-side of their devoted parents, the George home, in Belmore, being the center of many social gaieties.

Mr. and Mrs. George are members of the Evangelical church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of that religious organization, as well as being active participants in such local movements as have for their object the advancement of the best interests of the community at large, and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in all good works in this county. Mr. George is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which he takes considerable interest.

CHARLES FRANCIS HOLTZHAUER.

A rapid rise in the educational world has marked the career of Charles Francis Holtzhauer, who, although a young man in years, is now the superintendent of the Ottawa public schools. Graduating from one of the many excellent colleges of Ohio in 1907, he has been teaching in high schools of the state since that time, and is now serving his second year as superintendent of the schools of Ottawa.

Charles Francis Holzhauser, the son of Henry and Clarissa (Wunderly) Holzhauser, was born near Huron, Erie county, Ohio, November 26, 1881. His father was born near Amherst, Lorain county, Ohio, a son of John Holzhauser, who came from Hesse-Cassel, Germany. Clarissa Wunderly, the mother of Mr. Holzhauser, was born in Erie county, Ohio, and her mother was a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany. Henry Holzhauser is now living on the farm in Erie county, Ohio, where his son, Charles F., was born, and has made his home on this farm for many years.

Charles F. Holzhauer was reared on his father's farm in Erie county, Ohio, and received his elementary education in the country schools. After graduating from the common schools he entered the Huron high school and graduated in the class of 1903. He at once entered Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science, in the spring of 1907. In the fall of that year he began teaching, as assistant principal of the high school at Cadiz, Ohio, and remained in that school for four years. He came to Ottawa in 1911 as principal of the high school and after holding this position for three years, was elected in the summer of 1914 to the superintendency of the Ottawa schools. This is sufficient indication that his work in the schools of Ottawa has been satisfactory in every way. It is not only a tribute to his efficiency as an instructor, but also to his high character and sterling worth as a citizen.

Mr. Holzhauer was married in 1908 to Bessie Simmons, who was born at Ocoola, Crawford county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Ira H. and Amanda J. (Doty) Simmons. Mr. Holzhauer met his wife while they were both students at Delaware. To this union have been born two children, John Henry, who is now six years of age, and Mary Elizabeth, who is one year old.

Mr. Holzhauer and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Ottawa. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is now serving as senior deacon of the Ottawa lodge.

HENRY CLIFTON RUHL, M. D.

For more than twenty years, Henry Clifton Ruhl, M. D., has been practicing his profession in Leipsic, Ohio. Born and reared in Morrow county, Ohio, he went to Michigan with his father, in 1880, and completed his elementary education in that state. Later, he became a student at the Northern Normal University, at Ada, Ohio, and then entered the teaching profession. He finally decided to become a physician, and, with this intention, took a medical course of three years, and has been in the active practice of medicine since 1894. He located in Leipsic immediately after his graduation from the medical college, and has met with excellent success in the pursuit of his life work. He has been active in the civic life of Leipsic and is a public-spirited citizen, who can always be depended upon to support all measures for the general welfare of the community at large.

Henry Clifton Ruhl, M. D., the son of Adam Henry and Louisa



HENRY C. RULH, M. D.

(Jacobs) Ruhl, was born in Morrow county, Ohio, December 4, 1864. His father was born in 1828, in Berlin, Germany, and came, when a lad, with his parents to Pennsylvania. Adam Henry Ruhl was a son of Jacob Henry and Emma Ruhl, and, when about seventeen years of age, came with his parents from Pennsylvania to Morrow county, Ohio, where Jacob H. Ruhl and wife lived the remainder of their lives, dying at the ages of eighty-three and eighty-seven years, respectively. The Jacobs family also came from Berlin, Germany, and located in Pennsylvania, living at New Freedom, in York county. Louisa Jacobs' father died in that county, lacking ten days of being one hundred years old. His widow was past ninety-four years of age at the time of her death.

Adam Henry Ruhl was twice married. His first wife, Louisa Jacobs, died in 1870, and, in 1873, he married again. He removed with his family to Gratiot county, Michigan, in 1880, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a millwright by trade, and followed that occupation until his second marriage, after which time he engaged in farming.

Henry C. Ruhl, M. D., was sixteen years of age when his father went from Morrow county, Ohio, to Michigan, and lived in the latter state three years. He became a student in the Northern Ohio Normal University in 1883, and later, taught in the public schools for three years. In the fall of 1891, he entered Pulte Homeopathic Medical College, of Cincinnati, and graduated from that institution in the spring of 1894. On May 4, of that year, he began the practice of his profession, at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has since made his home. He has built up a large practice, and at the same time has been prominent in the civic affairs of the city.

Doctor Ruhl was married in July, 1894, to Anna Moore, who was born near Columbus Grove, Putnam county, and is a daughter of Samuel and Maria (Kiefer) Moore. Her parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, and were married in Richland county, Ohio. From that county the Moores came to Putnam county, and located on a farm near Columbus Grove, where Mr. Moore died at the age of seventy-six. His widow is now living at the home of Doctor Ruhl, and is past eighty years of age. Doctor Ruhl and his wife have one daughter, Neva J., who is now a college student at Delaware, Ohio.

Doctor Ruhl is active in the Democratic party in his county, and has always taken unusual interest in its public affairs. He was elected mayor of Leipsic in 1898. He was elected to the same office in the fall of 1911. Doctor Ruhl was a member of the school board, of Leipsic, for nine years,

and it was during his incumbency the present high school building was erected. The doctor owns an excellent farm, near Leipsic, over which he has general supervision. The family are staunch members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the order of Free and Accepted Masons and has attained to all the degrees up to and including the Knights Templar. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias since 1888. Doctor Ruhl is a genial and whole-souled man, and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county.

WILLIAM W. DIBBLE.

Prominently identified with the educational interests of the community in which he lived, William W. Dibble has been engaged in public school work in Putnam county, Ohio, for several years. Starting in before reaching his majority, as a teacher, he taught in order to secure money to pay his way through college, and for the past quarter of a century has been spending each winter in the school room. He has taught for several years in his home county, both in the common and the high schools, and since 1914 has been district superintendent of Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships.

William W. Dibble, the son of William E. and Martha Jane (Taylor) Dibble, was born on May 17, 1866, at Waterville, Lucas county, Ohio. His father's history appears elsewhere in this volume, and the reader is referred to it for information concerning the Dibble family.

William W. Dibble was reared at Waterville, Ohio, until he was sixteen years of age, at which time his parents moved to the southern part of Henry county, Ohio, where his father bought a tract of timbered land, and young William took his full share in the arduous task of clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation. At that time there were many wild turkeys in the woods and small game was abundant.

William W. Dibble attended the high schools at Elmore, Ottawa county, Ohio, and Lindsay, Sandusky county, Ohio, when he began to teach. After teaching one term he entered the Northwestern Ohio University at Ada, and for the next three years interspersed his college education with teaching in the public schools. He also took a business course in shorthand and book-keeping at the Tri-State Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and worked in an office for one year, when he returned to teaching. He taught school for

several years in Henry and Putnam counties, before beginning teaching in the high school at Leipsic in 1909. He continued there until the spring of 1913, when he became superintendent of the schools of Liberty and Van Buren townships, and, in 1914, Blanchard township was added to his territory, and the title was changed to that of district superintendent of schools, with complete jurisdiction over Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships. He is a practical school man, who understands every phase of public school teaching and is regarded as one of the best men of the profession in Putnam county.

Mr. Dibble was married in 1892 to Mary Alice Wise, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John F. and Martha J. (Schwab) Wise. Both of her parents were born and reared in Hancock county, and now live in Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.

Mr. Dibble and his wife are loyal workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, where Mr. Dibble has been the superintendent of the Sunday school for the past five years. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

PETER A. MISSLER.

A man of marked administrative ability is Peter A. Missler, the present mayor of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He has held this responsible position since 1908, and in 1914 was re-elected for two more years, a fact which speaks well for his worth as a citizen, and his ability as an executor. He has been a life-long farmer and has lived at Glandorf since 1897.

Peter A. Missler, the son of Joseph and Susannah (Willman) Missler, was born in Huron county, Ohio, in 1876. His father was a native of Germany, born in 1830, and, when a boy of sixteen, came to America alone, and located in Huron county, Ohio, where he worked as a cooper. He made barrels for wine and other liquids and built up a business which necessitated the employment of eight or ten men. While living in Huron county, he married Susannah Willman, who was a native of Stark county, Ohio, and died in Huron county in 1885. In the meantime Joseph Missler had sent to Germany for his parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Missler, they coming to this country and living the remainder of their lives in Huron county.

After the death of his wife, Joseph Missler moved to Mercer county, Ohio, and lived there with his son, Joseph, Jr., until his death on August 8, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years. He and his wife were the parents

of eight children, three of whom are deceased, Clara dying in infancy, Katherine dying in 1883, after reaching maturity, and Margaret, who died at the age of nineteen. The five living children are as follow: Joseph, of Mercer county, Ohio; Peter A., of Glandorf; John A., of Glandorf; Mary, a teacher in Auglaize county, Ohio, and Elizabeth, a teacher at Sedalia, Missouri.

Peter A. Missler was eight years of age when his mother died, and he then went with his father to Mercer county, and attended the college at Rensselaer, for two years. Peter A. Missler came to Glandorf in 1897 to engage in farming and has made this his life work. He has a good farm near Glandorf, where he engaged in diversified farming with a result which speaks well for his efforts.

Mr. Missler is a staunch Democrat, and is now a member of the Democratic central committee, of Putnam county. He was elected mayor of Glandorf in 1908, and has been re-elected every two years since that time. He is a stockholder and director in the Glandorf German Building & Loan Association.

Peter Missler was married in 1902 to Emma Catherine Ellerbrock, who was born in Glandorf, and is a daughter of John William and Jennie (Uten-dorf) Ellerbrock, a sketch of whose parents may be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Missler are the parents of five children living and one deceased, Mary, Joseph, Edward, Otmar, Angeline and Paul, who died on August 9, 1913, at the age of two years. Mr. Missler and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church, and are deeply interested in its welfare.

HARRY ALLEN NEISWANDER, M. D.

There is no class to whom greater gratitude is due, from the world at large, than the self-sacrificing, sympathetic, noble-minded men whose life work is the alleviation of suffering and administering comfort to the afflicted—those men who, in many cases, are responsible for lengthening the span of human existence. There is no standard by which their beneficent influence can be measured. Their helpfulness is limited only by the extent of their knowledge and skill, while their power goes hand in hand with the wonderful laws of nature that spring from the very source of life itself. Some one has aptly said "He serves God best, who serves humanity most." Among the physicians and surgeons of Putnam county, who have risen to well-deserved eminence in their chosen field of endeavor, and who are serv-

ing humanity with their talents and their training, is Harry Allen Neiswander, M. D., of Pandora, Putnam county, Ohio. Doctor Neiswander is a man who has proved himself to be broad-minded and conscientious in the sphere to which his life and energies have been devoted. He is possessed of a profound knowledge of the science of his profession, which has won for him a leading place among the distinguished medical men of his day and generation in Putnam county.

Harry Allen Neiswander, M. D., was born on September 26, 1881, in Van Buren township, Hancock county, Ohio. He is the son of Joshua N. and Susan (Blosser) Neiswander. Joshua N. Neiswander, the son of Michael and Fanny (Geiger) Neiswander, was born on January 4, 1857, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. Richland township was formerly a part of Putnam county. Michael Neiswander, the son of Michael Neiswander, Sr., was born on the Atlantic ocean en route to New York. Michael Neiswander, Sr., whose wife was Anna Ernst, was born in Berne, Switzerland, and came to America, as one of the early settlers of Allen county, Ohio, at the age of twenty-two, the year in which Michael Neiswander, Jr., was born. Michael Neiswander, Sr., settled first in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Subsequently, he followed the Riley creek, looking for a suitable location and homestead, which he found upon arriving at a spring in what is now Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. Michael Neiswander, Sr., entered land from the government and passed through all of the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation. He was accustomed to drive to Sandusky, more than sixty miles away, to mill and to buy provisions. A barrel of flour cost fifteen dollars in those days. On one occasion his son Daniel was driving home through the timber in a sleigh, when a pack of wolves got on his trail. Hearing their vicious snarls and howls, he understood they were coming after him. Lashing his horses into a run, he drove for home at top speed. Arriving at the barn, he hastily unhitched his horses, put them into the stable, locked the door and ran for the house with the wolves almost at his heels. Once in the house he was safe from harm. When he awoke the next morning, the wolves had disappeared, but he found the marks of their claws on the door. On one occasion when Michael Neiswander, Sr., had been to mill in Sandusky, he happened to cross a bridge over a stream which had nearly overflowed. As the horses stepped on the bridge, Michael observed that the planks were floating and, whipping up his horses, hurried them across. So nearly afloat was the bridge that just as the wheels of his wagon passed over each plank, it floated away.

Michael Neiswander, Sr., was the father of three sons, Daniel, Michael, Jr., and John. Daniel located in Putnam county and became a prosperous

farmer. He was the father of four daughters and one son. John moved to Missouri in an early day, where he reared a large family and prospered. Michael, Jr., grew to manhood on the old homestead and reared a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are now living except one. At one time he was very well-to-do, owning two hundred and forty acres of land besides other property. Joshua Neiswander, the father of Dr. Harry A., was the fourth child born to Michael Neiswander, Jr. He was born on the homestead in Richland township. So far as is known, Michael, Jr., had no educational advantages, except what he received from his parents. His father, however, was a well-informed man for his time, judging by the records and diaries he left, and must have been able to give his son some valuable instructions. Joshua Neiswander attended school in the old log school house, and grew to manhood under conditions much better than those which his father confronted, but still very largely of a primitive nature. Log cabins at that time were still the rule, although they had begun to be replaced by more commodious farm dwellings in the older settled communities.

Joshua Neiswander remained with his parents until of age, after which, for about three years, he worked on a farm and spent a few months in Canada. After his return from Canada, he was married, at the age of twenty-four, to Susan Blosser, the daughter of Christian and Catherine (Thirt) Blosser. The Blosser family history is to be found in the sketch of Mrs. Isaac Hilty. After his marriage, Joshua Neiswander located on a farm in Van Buren township, Hancock county, which he cleared and on which he built his home. He has always done general farming and has been very successful. Lately he has specialized in raising and feeding hogs, cattle and horses for the market. Of late years, he has specialized in thoroughbred Duroc hogs. He is of a mechanical turn of mind and learned the carpenter's trade, which he follows at odd times. He is a Democrat and for a great many years was township trustee. He is an ardent supporter of the Reformed Mennonite church. His wife is a member of the American Mennonite church. Doctor Neiswander's mother, Susan Blosser, is the daughter of Christian Blosser. He was a school teacher and met his death in a peculiar way. On his way home from school one day, he chanced to meet a young woman and stopped to converse with her. It later developed that she had smallpox. Christian Blosser caught the disease and died, as did also his father. Christian Blosser was the father of five children, of whom Doctor Neiswander's mother was next to the youngest.

Joshua N. and Susan Neiswander were the parents of eleven children,

three of whom died in infancy, Harry A., the subject of this sketch; Irvin, who died in infancy; Lois, the wife of Melville Bushong, of Newstark, Ohio, who has two children, Elton and Merl; William, who died in infancy; Leo, a student in the Homeopathical Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, who married Lettie Fried and has one daughter, Alice; Estella, who is a school teacher; Claud, who is principal of the high school at Arlington, Ohio; Edgar, Byron, Ralph and Una, all of whom are at home.

Harry A. Neiswander, M. D., received his early education in the common schools of Van Buren township. He attended the summer normal schools and also the normal school at Angola for one summer. After this, he completed his Bachelor of Science work at Ohio Northern University, graduating in 1907. Subsequently he took a position as assistant principal of the New Holland (Ohio) high school and in a few months became principal of that institution.

Doctor Neiswander entered the Cleveland Homeopathical Medical College in 1908, which institution later became affiliated with the Ohio State University. He graduated with the class of 1912. In his senior year, Doctor Neiswander was president of the Hahnemann Medical Society, a student organization. Before graduation, he saw active work with one of Cleveland's prominent practitioners. In this way, he was specially fitted for his chosen profession. He located at Pandora in the fall of 1912, where he has since built a large and growing practice.

Doctor Neiswander was married on December 25, 1907, to Rosella Spacht, of Van Buren township. She was formerly a student at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, and also the Ohio Northern University at Ada. She is the daughter of Jesse B. and Mary (Stonehill) Spacht, both of whom belong to pioneer families of Hancock county. Mrs. Neiswander is the eldest of four children, the others are William, who died at the age of twenty-nine; Verla and Irena, who are at home.

Doctor Neiswander is a Democrat. He is health officer of Riley township and Pandora. He is a member of the leading medical societies, including the Ohio State Medical Society, the Ohio State Homeopathic Medical Society and the Putnam County Medical Society. Dr. Neiswander and wife are active members of the Methodist Protestant church. They have been the parents of two sons, Allen and Harold.

Doctor Neiswander is a progressive young physician, who has had all of the advantages of the latest information in medicine. He has built up a large practice in the community and a practice which he so very much deserves because of his splendid equipment and his natural inclination toward his life profession.

GEORGE HENRY MERSMAN.

A substantial business man of Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, is George Henry Mersman, who was born on the farm where his elevator is now located. His parents, both of whom were natives of Germany, were early settlers in this county, and the Mersman family have been active in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, for many years. Mr. Mersman started to work in the woolen-mill in Glandorf, when a young man, and for more than a quarter of a century was interested in this business, while at the same time he carried on general farming. He has been interested in the elevator business in Glandorf since 1892, though he is still devoting some of his attention to farming.

George Henry Mersman, the son of Henry and Mary E. (Recker) Mersman, was born on February 18, 1851, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to this county when a young man, where he worked on the Ohio canal, which was being built through this section of the state. Later, he was a partner with Mr. Myers, in the saw-mill business, and still later was engaged in the same business with Mr. Drerup. In addition to operating the saw-mill, he had a grist-mill which was run by steam power, the grinding being done with an old-fashioned burr stone. Mr. Mersman continued the saw and grist-mill business, in Glandorf, as long as he lived. In addition to his mills he operated a general store, packed and shipped pork and was a business man, interested in many ventures. He and his brother, Barney, were in partnership in the pork-packing business. Mary E. Recker, the wife of Henry Mersman, was born in Hanover, Germany, and was a daughter of Nicholas Henry Recker and wife. The mother died in the old country, and her father married again. When Mary E. Recker was a girl of five years, her father and family came to America and located at Fort Wayne, Indiana, but lived there only a short time, when they moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where her father farmed during the remainder of his life.

George Henry Mersman lived at home until he was grown. As a young man, he worked in the woolen mills at Glandorf, and continued there for twenty-eight years. He began his mill work by operating a carding machine, and later became a spinner. At the same time that he was working in the woolen mills, he was engaged in farming. Mr. Mersman built an elevator at Glandorf, in 1892, just after the railroad was built through the village, and leased it out for one year. Since that time he has had active charge of the



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. MERRIAM

elevator himself, and has built up a large and lucrative business in the buying and shipping of grain.

Mr. Mersman was married on April 21, 1875, to Anna M. Halker, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the daughter of William and Louise (Vogeding) Halker. Her parents were both natives of Germany, came to Glandorf, Ohio, early in its history, and located in the midst of a dense forest. Her father was a life-long farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Mersman were the parents of three children, two of whom, Louise and John, died in infancy. Anna E. is the wife of Anthony Kohls. Mr. Kohls was born at Glandorf and reared at New Cleveland, this county. He is a son of Tony and Theresa (Klinkhammer) Kohls. Mr. and Mrs. Kohls have four children, Anna, Linus, Clarence and Louisa. Mr. Kohls and Mr. Mersman are operating this business together.

Mr. Mersman has given his hearty support to the Democratic party, and has been a member of the Glandorf council ever since the village was incorporated, with the exception of two years. He and his wife are loyal members of St. John's Catholic church, at Glandorf. He has a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, twenty-five acres of which is good timber land, and is now doing a general farming business. Since purchasing this tract of farm land, Mr. Mersman has installed many changes and made numerous improvements.

PETER D. BIXEL, M. D.

It is not always easy to discover and define the hidden forces that have moved a life of ceaseless activity and large professional success. Little more can be done than to note their manifestations in the career of the person under consideration. The life of the physician and public-spirited man of affairs, whose name appears above, affords a striking example of well-defined purpose—his ability to make that purpose subserve, not only his own ends, but the good of his fellow men, as well. Peter D. Bixel, M. D., has long held prestige in the calling that requires for its basis strong mentality and intellectual attainments of a high order, supplemented by rigid professional training and a thorough mastery of technical knowledge with the skill to apply the same, without which one cannot hope to arise above mediocrity. In his chosen field of endeavor Doctor Bixel has achieved a notable success, which has been duly recognized and appreciated throughout the section of the state in which he lives. In addition to his long and creditable career,

in one of the most useful and exacting professions, he has proved an honorable member of the body politic, and in every relation of life has never fallen below the dignity of true manhood or in any way resorted to the methods which might invite censure.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., was born on April 21, 1865, in Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Magdalene (Schumacher) Bixel. Abraham Bixel was born on May 14, 1843, in Holmes county, Ohio, and was the son of Peter and Fannie (Diller) Bixel. Peter Bixel and wife were both natives of Berne, Switzerland. Peter Bixel was born on January 1, 1795, and came to America, April 26, 1824, arriving July 21, 1824. He came, first, to Wayne county, and on August 2, 1824, went to Holmes county, where he married Fannie Diller. They had sixteen children, of whom Fannie was the second eldest and the eldest living child. The family came from Holmes to Allen county, near Bluffton, when the eldest child was eighteen or nineteen years of age.

In Holmes county, Peter Bixel entered land from the government, and here he remained for about fifteen years, selling out, in 1846, and coming to Allen county, settling one mile north of Bluffton. He was a very progressive farmer and a hard worker. He owned, at one time, nearly one thousand acres of land. He was a fine type of the American citizen and very liberal. He had a fine Christian character and was one of the first members of the Mennonite church, in his community. He lived all his life on the old homestead, in Allen county. Fannie Diller, his wife, was a native of Switzerland and married Peter Bixel, in Wayne county, Ohio.

Abraham Bixel moved, with his parents, to Allen county when but three years of age. It was there that he received his early education in the typical log-cabin school house. Although his educational advantages were limited, he became a self-made man, and being a careful reader, greatly advanced himself by home study. When he was twenty-one years of age, May 5, 1864, he was married to Magdalene Schumacher, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. After his marriage, he remained on the old homestead, until 1878, when he sold out and moved to the old Peter Schumacher farm, in Richland township, Allen county. This he sold, in 1903, and then retired, moving to Pandora, where he now lives. Abraham Bixel was one of sixteen children. His wife, Magdalene, was also one of sixteen children, a remarkable coincidence. Abraham Bixel was a very successful farmer and owned more than two hundred acres. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, Dr. Peter D.; David C.; Sarah, who died at the age of three; Noah, Elizabeth, John, who is dean of the

Conservatory of Music, at Ottawa, Kansas; Samuel, Mary, Lydia, Adam, Menno and Susan.

Doctor Bixel spent his boyhood days on the old home place, in Allen county. Here he received his early education, completing his course in the common school at the age of twenty-one. He then went to work in a store, at Bluffton, and remained here for six years. When twenty-seven years of age he and Benjamin Schumacher bought the firm of C. S. Day & Company, dealers in groceries, queensware, where they also became the proprietors of a bakery. They stayed in this business for two years, when the firm became Bixel & Welty. This firm continued for two years longer and then the store was sold.

Peter D. Bixel then took a preparatory course in medicine at the University of Cincinnati. The next year he entered the Eclectic Medical College, at Cincinnati, graduating in 1901, where he stood next to the head of his class in surgery. After graduating, he located at Bluffton, Ohio, and went into partnership with Doctor Sutter.

This partnership continued for nine months, when Doctor Bixel moved to Pandora, where he now resides and where he has established a large and growing practice. In addition to his university preparatory course, he has pursued his studies and kept up to the demands of the profession by attending lectures at Chicago and Cincinnati. Doctor Bixel is a member of the National Eclectic Medical Association and the Ohio State Eclectic Medical Association, the Northwestern Eclectic Medical Association and the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Alopathic Medical Association and the Northwestern Ohio Alopathic Medical Association, as well as the Putnam County Medical Association.

He is ex-president of the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical Association and twice secretary of that association. Likewise he is ex-secretary of the Putnam County Medical Association.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., was married on December 19, 1889, to Elizabeth Steiner, daughter of Christian and Magdalene Lugibihl Steiner, the family history of whom is to be found in the sketch of Peter Steiner, contained elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Bixel's parents were pioneers in Putnam county. Mrs. Bixel was born on November 1, 1867, and reared one mile east of Pandora. She received her education in the common schools of Riley township.

To Doctor and Mrs. Bixel have been born three children, Stella has been a student at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and graduated in the class of 1915. She is a graduate of the Pandora high school. Munson Rus-

sell graduated from Pandora high school and is now a student at Bluffton College. Madeline is a student in high school.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., has been a life-long Republican. For six years he was health officer of Riley township. He was also a member of the board of education for eight years, and president of the board for four years. Doctor Bixel and family are members of the Great Mennonite church, of which he is an ardent supporter.

The subject of this sketch is one of Putnam county's most progressive professional men and stands high in the community in a professional and personal way. He is a most careful and conscientious physician and likewise a public-spirited citizen, taking an active part in everything that might result in the betterment of the community. Altogether, Doctor Bixel is a very valuable citizen to the county where he has spent practically all his life.

PETER P. STEINER.

Specific mention is made in the following paragraphs of one of the worthy citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and one who has figured in the growth and development of the financial and commercial interests of this favored section, whose interests have been identified with its progress, contributing, in a definite measure, in his particular spheres of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Earnest purpose of tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense, have been among his most prominent characteristics. He has merited the respect and esteem which are accorded him by all with whom he has had social or business relations.

Peter P. Steiner was born on December 28, 1845, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner, the former born in Switzerland, on a farm, October 7, 1811, died in Richland township, Allen county, three miles west of Bluffton, August 22, 1870, at the age of fifty-nine years. Peter Steiner, Sr., was the son of Christian Steiner and wife, the latter's maiden name being Luginbuhl. Christian Steiner was born in 1770, in Switzerland, and died on his farm in Richland township, Allen county, in January, 1846. In addition to being a farmer in Switzerland, he was a preacher, and followed this calling after settling in America in 1830. He and his wife had six children when they

came to America, as follow: Christian, John, Ulrich, Peter, Barbara and Elizabeth. Christian, the eldest son, had preceded the rest of the family by two years. He settled in Wayne county and, like his father, was a minister. Another brother, Ulrich, also took up the ministry, and all were faithful members of the Mennonite church. Christian Steiner, Sr., died ten years after coming to America.

Peter Steiner was the fourth child of his parents. He was married at the age of twenty-five, just before coming to America, to Barbara Schuhmacher, who was the daughter of Christian and Barbara Schuhmacher. Both she and her father were natives of Basel, Switzerland. Her parents and four children came to America at the same time the Steiner family came. The children of this family were Peter, who was a minister; John, Christian and Barbara, the mother of Peter P., the subject of this sketch. Peter Steiner, and the remainder of the family, settled in what is now Richland township, Allen county, which was then a part of Putnam county. They entered land from the government, for which they paid one dollar an acre. The Steiners had been considered well-to-do in Switzerland, were prosperous farmers and had lived on the same farm, "The Buchwald," for seven successive generations. This was a large farm, probably consisting of two or three hundred acres.

Christian Schuhmacher, the father of Peter P. Steiner's mother, was a miller in Switzerland and also a wine merchant. After entering his land from the government, built a log cabin and proceeded to clear his land. It is related that he used to haul grain to mill at Sandusky, Tiffin and Maumee, forty or fifty miles away, with an ox team. He could only haul about fifteen or twenty bushels at a time, on account of the bad condition of the roads, and it usually took a week. At all times he would have to carry an ax, with which to cut his way through fallen trees. It was on the farm that he established, by dint of energy and push, that his eleven children were reared, all of whom grew to man and womanhood. The children were as follow: Catherine, deceased, wife of Christian Gratz; Christian; Barbara, deceased, wife of Peter D. Diller; Mary Ann, deceased, wife of Chris Hilty; Elizabeth; David, who died at the age of twenty-one; Peter P.; Mattie, who died at the age of twenty; Benjamin died at the age of fifty-five, in 1895; Fannie, who died single, and Susan, deceased, wife of Benjamin Hilty. They are now all deceased with the exception of Christian, Elizabeth and Peter P. The mother of these children died about 1885. His father, at the time of his death, owned four hundred and twenty-six acres of land and was known as a good farmer. He was a Democrat and a very earnest supporter of the Mennonite church.

It was on the old homestead farm in Richland township, Allen county, that Peter P. Steiner spent his boyhood days. Here he attended the district schools and, of course, helped his father on the farm, until twenty-two years of age.

Peter P. Steiner was married on March 7, 1867, and remained on the home place until the following fall, when he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, on a place owned by his father. This farm of one hundred and twenty acres, he later purchased from his father. It was in a virgin state and Mr. Steiner, like his father, cleared the land and built his cabin. He felled the first tree on the site of his new home on October 28, 1867. He cleared two acres and on December 13, with his bride, moved to his new home. He had previously dug a well. His wife was Elizabeth Luginbihl, the daughter of Christian Luginbihl and wife. Mrs. Steiner was a native of Riley township, Putnam county, and her parents were natives of Switzerland. She died on September 20, 1905. She was a splendid Christian woman, a devoted wife and loving mother. She was the mother of four children, Helen, the wife of P. D. Amstutz, the postmaster of Pandora, who have three children, R. Mendelssohn, Melvina and Hilda W.; Martha, the twin sister of Helen, who died in infancy; Noah, who married Elizabeth Luginbihl, and has five children, Melvin, Eukalia, William, Waldo and Earl D., and Mary, who died at the age of twenty-seven. She attended Findlay College and was a teacher of music. She was a fine Christian young woman, very popular and highly esteemed in the community.

After clearing up his farm, Peter P. Steiner continued to farm until 1898, when he moved to Pandora. The following spring he entered the milling business, the firm name being Steiner, Hilty & Schuhmacher. The firm name now is Steiner, Hilty & Kempf, Mr. Kempf being the bookkeeper. Mr. Steiner has continued in the milling business up to the present time. He was elected president of the firm and has since continued to hold this office. In addition to his other holdings, Mr. Steiner has accumulated considerable town property. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Banking Company.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He is one of the main supports of the Mennonite church and has been a deacon in that church for the past forty years. He is one of the most substantial citizens of Riley township and Pandora. He is influential and highly respected and is a fine type of the present-day Christian gentleman. Mr. Steiner deserves great credit for his many accomplishments. He has toiled early and late, but he has the satisfaction of knowing now that he has always toiled to good purpose.

FRED H. ELLERBROCK.

The Ellerbrock family have been residents of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, since 1836. In that year the grandfather of Fred H. Ellerbrock came from Germany and located in this county, when practically the entire county was covered with a dense forest. In fact, it was only a few years after the county was organized that the Ellerbrock family became permanent residents. They have taken an active part in the life of this community, from earliest pioneer times, and the various members of this family are highly respected in the community where they live.

Fred H. Ellerbrock, the son of Fred and Lizette (Wischmeyer) Ellerbrock, was born September 25, 1882, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born, in Ottawa township, in this county, near Glandorf, and was a son of Herman Ellerbrock, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America, about 1836, where at once located on the farm near Glandorf, in Putnam county. There he spent the remainder of his life.

Fred Ellerbrock, Sr., was reared on his father's farm, at Glandorf, and, upon reaching his maturity, married Lizette Wischmeyer. She was born at Hunteberg, Oznabruck, Germany, and was a daughter of Henry Wischmeyer and wife. She came here in her girlhood days with her sister, while her father later came from the Fatherland and spent his declining years in Glandorf. Fred Ellerbrock, Sr., was a life-long farmer, first locating in Pleasant township and later, near Glandorf. He was twice married, his first wife being Mary Borgelt, who died, leaving two children, William and Mary. To his second marriage were born six children, three sons and three daughters, Henry; Lucy, the wife of Henry Karkhoff; Fred, of Glandorf; Bernard; Lena Frances, living, and Louis, who died in early childhood. The father of these children died in July, 1913. His widow is now living near Glandorf.

Fred H. Ellerbrock was reared on his father's farm near Glandorf, and educated in the public schools of his home neighborhood. He, in partnership with Charles B. Ellerbrook, in 1910, bought the saloon at Glandorf, which they have since operated in partnership, conducting the business in a clean and orderly manner.

Mr. Ellerbrock was married in May, 1908, to Dora Kaufman, who was born, at New Cleveland, Ohio, and is the daughter of William and Catherine (Schmenk) Kaufman. Her father was a life long farmer, at New Cleveland. Mr. Ellerbrock and his wife are the parents of three children, Marie, Norbert and Anna.

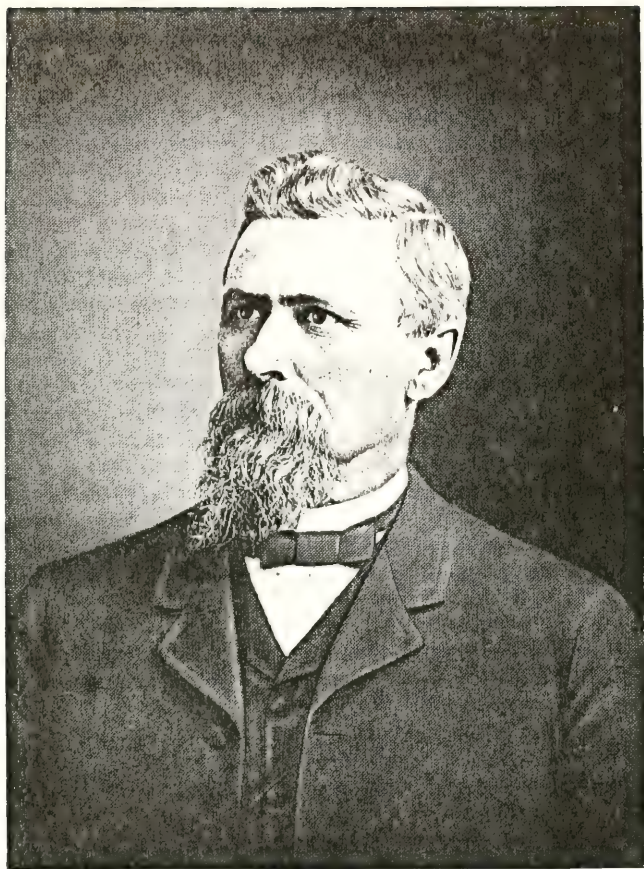
Mr. Ellerbrock and his family are members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf, and he belongs to the St. John's and Ss. Peter and Paul's Aid societies.

WARREN F. REED, M. D.

The late Warren F. Reed, M. D., was a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, from the spring of 1867 until the spring of 1913. For many years he was one of the leading practitioners of the county, and was also interested in the political life of the county as well. During the twenty years preceding his death, he was president of the Bank of Ottawa, although he continued to practice his profession until the time of his decease. When a young man he enlisted for service in the Civil War, and made a notable record in that terrible conflict. Doctor Reed was a well-known man, of broad character, and most kindly disposition. He was unassuming in manner, devoted to his profession and faithful in the discharge of every duty which came before him.

The late Warren F. Reed was born near Lima, Ohio, November 22, 1839, and died at his home, in Ottawa, March 28, 1913. He was a son of Manuel and Elizabeth (O'Harr) Reed. His father was a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, and became a resident of Allen county, Ohio, as early as 1834, purchasing a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of government land in that year, near Lima. He married Elizabeth O'Harr, a daughter of Arthur O'Harr, one of the pioneers of Franklin county, Ohio. Manuel Reed was a farmer and carpenter, was a man of quiet and unostentatious manner and exerted a beneficial influence in the community where he resided. His ancestors were pioneers of Pennsylvania. The O'Harrs were descended from an old Scottish family, a number of representatives of which settled in Pennsylvania early in the history of that state.

Doctor Reed was educated in the district schools of Allen county and later graduated from the Lima high school. When a young man, he began the study of medicine, under Doctor Harper, of Lima, and after returning from the war, he completed his medical education in the University of Michigan, from which institution he graduated in 1866. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of New York City, and, in the spring of 1867, began the practice of his profession in the town of Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, where he lived until 1890. In that year he moved to Ottawa, having been elected to the office of county auditor on the Republican ticket.



W. F. Reed

His election was a striking tribute to his worth, as a citizen, in view of the fact that the county was very strongly Democratic. Doctor Reed was appointed assignee of the Ottawa Exchange Bank in 1894, and in July of that year, in partnership with I. H. Kahle, of Glandorf, and W. H. Harper, Jr., of Lima, he reorganized the Bank of Ottawa, and was president of that financial institution until his death, in the spring of 1913.

In addition to his business and official duties, Doctor Reed continued the practice of medicine during all these years. He was a member of the Northwestern Medical Society, the Putnam County Medical Society and Ohio State Medical Society. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and had attained to the chapter, council and commandery degrees.

Doctor Reed was married in 1873, to Clyde Gordon, the daughter of Judge John H. and Mrs. Jane C. (Perry) Gordon. To this union four children were born, Mary, Nellie, Gordon, who died at the age of seventeen, and one child, who died in infancy.

John H. Gordon, the father of Mrs. Reed, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was reared to manhood in that state. He was largely a self-educated man, and came to Ohio early in his manhood and settled in Butler county, where he married Mrs. Jane C. Perry. To this union five daughters were born, Ruth, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Dunn, of Indianapolis, Indiana; Rebecca J., the wife of W. C. G. Krauss, of Ottawa, Ohio; Zella, the wife of George D. Kinder, of Ottawa; Clyde, the wife of Doctor Reed, and Mrs. Minerva Hornaday, now the matron of the Soldiers' Home, at Xenia, Ohio. Mrs. Gordon, by a previous marriage, had one daughter, Mary P., who became the wife of James Johnson, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Gordon taught school, in Ohio, for several years, after coming to this state, and made an excellent record as an instructor. He was especially proficient in mathematics and made this branch of study a specialty. He served three terms as recorder of Butler county, Ohio, and also engaged in farming and in the livery business at Hamilton, Ohio. In 1856 Mr. Gordon moved his family to Putnam county, and for some years thereafter was engaged in the manufacture of lumber, but later, turned his attention to contracting, building and the making of stone roads. He was elected to the office of probate judge for two terms, served two terms as mayor of Ottawa, and was a justice of the peace for several years. In this latter office, Mr. Gordon always used a reasonable effort to effect an amicable adjustment of difficulties without bringing the cause in dispute to trial. He had a deep dislike for litigation, on account of the bad feelings which were usually

aroused by a trial. A man of strictest morality and integrity, he enjoyed the confidence of the community to the fullest extent, and would often suffer a wrong rather than commit one. While serving as probate judge, he frequently refused to collect fees, feeling that the people were too poor to be taxed for his services. Liberal to a fault, his charities were widely dispensed, and in consequence he never succeeded in accumulating great wealth. Mr. Gordon was a staunch Democrat, but during the Civil War, he was an ardent Union man and did much to induce the young men of his county to volunteer. By reason of an accident, in which he lost an arm when a young man, he was rendered ineligible for military duty. His life was one of high aims and in his death Putnam county lost one of its most prominent and valued citizens.

Doctor Reed was a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and although he had many narrow escapes, he returned home after the close of the war without injury or without impairment of his health. He was a keen business man and an executive of marked ability. He was president of the building commission, who had charge of the erection of the present Putnam county court house, and rendered valuable and efficient service while the seat of justice was being erected. It may be assumed that Doctor Reed was a man of unusual attainments, by reason of the fact that he took such an active part in the life of his community. His career, extending over nearly half a century, was fraught with great good to his county, and at his death he was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

THOMAS HARVEY ROWER.

The Rower family came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, at which time Frederick Rower, the great-grandfather of Thomas Harvey Rower, came to this country from Saxony and located in Franklin county, at which place he died. For more than sixty years this family has been identified with the history of the county, and has seen it emerge from its primitive state to the prosperous county which it is today. Thomas H. Rower was a school teacher in his younger days, then was cashier of the First National Bank of Leipsic for a time, but since 1907 has been a partner of W. F. Stevenson in general insurance, bonds, loans and real estate.

Thomas Harvey Rower, the son of Lewis A. and Mary E. (Begg)

Rower, was born January 9, 1878, in Jackson township, three and one-half miles west of Kalida, along the Big Auglaize river. His father, who was the son of John and Nancy Rower, was born in 1851, on the same farm. John Rower was the son of Frederick Rower, who was born in Dresden, Saxony, in 1779, and came to America in 1799, and located in Pennsylvania, later crossing the mountains and locating on a farm in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1812, where he died in 1826. His wife, Elizabeth (Long) Rower, died in 1846. He was one of the first pioneer settlers to make his homecoming in 1849 and literally carved and drained a home out of the swampy forests. The pioneer experiences of this sterling German-American citizen would make interesting reading.

Lewis A. Rower was only a child when his father died at the age of thirty-two. His mother later married John Rager, and moved to Franklin county, and there Lewis A. grew to manhood and married Mary E. Begg, February 11, 1875. She was born in Franklin county, a daughter of John and Mary Begg, who came from Cumbernauld, Scotland, in 1844, and located in Franklin county. The Begg family lived in Franklin county most of their lives, but about the time of the war lived for two years in Putnam county, after which they returned to Franklin county, and later to Allen and Putnam counties, where they spent the remainder of their days. After Lewis A. Rower was married he moved back to the old Rower home in Putnam county, west of Kalida, and farmed there until his death in 1886. He died at the age of thirty-five, the same age as his father at the time of the latter's death. Lewis A. Rower left his widow with five children, John, who died in infancy; Thomas H., of Leipsic; Mary Janet, of Kalida, Ohio; Lewis Edson, of Kalida, Ohio; Philip A., of Kalida, Ohio; Mabel A., the wife of Rudolph Raabe, of Ft. Jennings, Ohio. The widow remained on the farm until 1913, when she moved into Kalida, where she now makes her home.

Thomas H. Rower was reared on the farm and remained there until he was twenty years of age. He became a student in the Western Ohio Normal School at Middle Point, Ohio, in the fall of 1898, and remained there until he graduated in the spring of 1900. The following year he taught in the public schools of Leipsic and for the next four years was the superintendent of the schools at Hamler, Ohio. After the close of his last year in Hamler, in the spring of 1905, he returned to Leipsic and became the cashier of the First National Bank. He remained with this bank until its voluntary liquidation two years later, and then formed a partnership with Walter S. Stevenson in the insurance, stocks, bonds, loans and real

estate business. This house has built up an extensive business and is now one of the substantial firms of the city.

Mr. Rower was married on June 15, 1904, to Annetta Wynn, who was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Wrightly) Wynn. Both Mrs. Rower's parents were members of old and highly-respected Philadelphia families, her father being a cousin of ex-Postmaster-General Robert Wynn. Members of family of Mr. and Mrs. Wynn were, Ernest, deceased; Ervin, a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Annetta, wife of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Wynn died when Mrs. Rower was an infant and her mother later married Rev. W. H. Hyatt, a Presbyterian minister, and has since lived in a number of places, as his work took him from one city to another. Mrs. Rower is a fine musician and has taught instrumental music. Mr. and Mrs. Rower are the parents of four children, Margaret Eloise, Mary Annette, Helen Lucile and Alfred Wynn.

Mr. Rower is independent in politics, and takes an intelligent interest in the current issues of the day. He has been president of the Leipsic board of education since the beginning of 1914. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and he and his wife are active workers in the Presbyterian church, in which he has been an elder for several years.

HOMER R. DAY.

One of the most illustrious, as well as one of the oldest, families in America, is the Day family, of which the gentleman whose name is noted above, a popular merchant, at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, is an honorable representative of the present generation. To go into all the various ramifications of the Day family in America, or to set out in detail the most salient points in the lives of the numerous representatives of this family, who have rendered distinguished service to their country, would require a book larger, perhaps, than this volume and the biographer, keeping within the proper limitations prescribed in the compilation of a work of this character, must content himself with a mere side light on the beginnings of the family which will serve as an introduction to the present generation, and then come himself to a brief biography of the gentleman whose name appears as the caption of this interesting sketch, the ninth in direct line of descent from Robert Day, the first of his name to settle in America.

Those who are interested in the ampler history of the Day family are referred to the Day Book, one of the most monumental and painstaking works of genealogical research ever printed in this country and which contains the lineage of the Days far back beyond the time the first of the name in this country reached America, early in the seventeenth century.

The Day Book traces the present family of Days, in Putnam county, of which Homer R. Day, merchant, at Columbus Grove, is perhaps the best-known local representative, back to the year 1680, in which year Robert Day arrived in Boston, from England, one of a party of earnest colonists, numbering one hundred or more, who came to this country, under the leadership of the Reverend Hooker, to find new homes. This party penetrated the wilderness and founded the town of Hartford, Connecticut, Robert Day taking no small part in the strenuous labors of these colonists. The majority of the Days, in the earlier history, were ministers of the Gospel or farmers, and in whatever relation they served their fellow men, they did their duty as they saw it. The Rev. Jeremiah Day, sixth in line from Robert Day, was president of Yale College, from 1817 to 1846, and George Day, who wrote the Day Book, so well known to all genealogists, was also president of Yale for many years. The late Alfred H. Day, whose name for so many years was literally a household word in the neighborhood of Columbus Grove, by reason of his long connection with the mercantile interests of that city, was the eighth in line from the Robert Day above mentioned; his father, the venerated Reverend Alvin Day, second, having been a son of the Reverend Jeremiah Day, referred to above as president of Yale for so long a period. There are many biographies of the Reverend Alvin Day extant, to any one of which the reader, curious for further information, is referred. Suffice it here to say that he was born in Willerham, Massachusetts, married Anna Maria Stebbins and died December 3, 1860, his widow surviving, until September 7, 1867.

To the Reverend Alvin and Anna Maria (Stebbins) Day thirteen children were born, of whom the late Alfred H. Day, father of Homer R., was the seventh in order of birth, the others being Harrison C., Nelson, Gilford, Lovina, Sanford, George, Olive Maria, Mary Azubah, Alvira, Jane Eliza, Walter S. and Alvin C.

Alfred H. Day, who for many years was a merchant, at Columbus Grove, and whose death on March 24, 1911, was so sincerely mourned throughout this whole section, was born at Wilberham, Massachusetts, January 25, 1840, the son of the Reverend Alvin and Anna Maria (Stebbins) Day, the former of whom was one of the most distinguished Baptist ministers of his day.

Alfred attended school at Wilberham until he was sixteen years of age, when he decided to come west. Starting out alone, he proceeded to Rockport, Illinois, where he lived for a period of two years, attending school during the winter and making his time further serviceable by clerking in a local store where he no doubt laid the foundation for his later mercantile success. He then moved to Lima, Ohio, where he was for some time engaged in a clerical capacity in a grain warehouse and, in 1861, came to Putnam county, locating in Columbus Grove, where for two years he engaged in the grain business with such success that, in 1863, he was able to purchase the general merchandise store of J. P. Jones, consisting mostly of groceries, which was located in a frame building on the west side of the street. This was his first start in the dry-goods business, in which he later became so successful. About the year 1872, Mr. Day moved this frame structure and erected in its stead a fine brick building, in which he conducted his store with so much success that his business outgrew its quarters and it became necessary to enlarge the store capacity. To this end, in 1883, he enlarged the old store and erected the fine building which still stands a monument to his energy, the store which he so long conducted now being under the management of his son. There was a reason for the success which attended the efforts of the elder Day. He was a good business man, level-headed and cool, possessing excellent judgment and had a rare sense of values. In addition to this, he was always on duty, being at the store early and late, and was a master of detail. Mr. Day erected, in 1873 in Columbus Grove, one of the finest residences in the town, which is still standing, a home of unusual beauty and good taste. In the same year he built the Grove House, now known as the Witt Hotel, in Columbus Grove, and also for some time held an interest in the grain elevator in his home town. He watched his business grow with pride and, in 1893, he took into the store, as a partner, his son, Homer R. Day, who has since been continuously active in the direction of the business, and who, since his father's retirement, in 1906, has been the sole owner. About five years after his retirement, at the age of seventy-two, Mr. Day passed on to his reward and many there were in this county who mourned his demise.

Alfred H. Day was a loveable man, of excellent habits, unassuming and plain-spoken, of sterling character, dependable in all his relations in life and a power in his community, his death being a distinct loss to the town. Not only was he unusually active in the mercantile life of Columbus Grove, but he paid close attention to the community's civic interests and was always interested in any movement which had, as its object, the advancement of the

public welfare. He was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in political affairs, his wise counsel and sound judgment being of much force in the deliberations of the local party managers. For sixteen years he was treasurer of Pleasant township, and for years was also corporation treasurer of Columbus Grove, besides being a member of the town council and the school board, in all these duties giving the same studious attention to the public's business as he gave to his own personal affairs. He was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, as are all the members of his family, being prompt in his attendance upon the services of the church and a liberal contributor to the various beneficences of the same.

Alfred H. Day was united in marriage, in 1865, to Ada L. Pease, who was born in Monson, Massachusetts, and who is now living with her children. To this union three children were born, Rose E., who married Dr. Frank H. Pugh and lives at Bryan, Ohio; Clyde, who died in infancy, and Homer R., the immediate subject of this interesting biographical sketch.

Homer R. Day, who was born at Columbus Grove, April 9, 1873, son of Alfred H. and Ada L. (Pease) Day, received his youthful education in the schools of his native town and, upon completing the course there, took a supplemental course in the business college, at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he received his business training and from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1893, after which he returned home and entered business with his father, who took him as a partner that year. This mutually pleasant and profitable arrangement continued until the year 1906, when the elder Day retired, turning all interests over to his son, since which time the latter has been sole owner and has continued the wise policies of his father with such careful direction that the business is continuing to grow in the most satisfactory fashion. In addition to his commercial interests, Mr. Day finds time to give his share of attention to public affairs, in which he naturally takes a deep interest. He has been a member of the board of public affairs for the past seven years, served for two terms as treasurer of the township and also for two terms as a member of the school board. He is also a director of the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove. As was his father, he is a Republican, and his counsels carry weight with the party managers in Putnam county, by reason of his sound judgment and excellent executive ability. He has made himself a most valuable power for good in the community and commands the highest respect of all throughout the entire section of the county where his name and that of his father, before him, are so well known and so highly regarded. A man of unquestionable honesty, he believes in the application of sound principles to the conduct of both

public and private business and is an earnest advocate of all measures which look to the betterment of the social, moral or civic conditions of the community in which he lives.

Homer R. Day was united in marriage on April 25, 1897, to Miss Winifred Rice, who was born at Ada, Ohio, the daughter of John F. and Jennie (Hemphill) Rice, members of old families of that section of the state, and to this union four children have been born, Aline, born on March 27, 1898; Jeannette, born on January 7, 1900; Mildred, born on March 15, 1902, and Fred R., born on June 3, 1905, and who died on December 15, 1907. The three youngsters, in the pleasant Day home, keep things lively there and are the delight of the lives of their devoted parents. Mr. and Mrs. Day are members of the Presbyterian church and take an active part in the beneficences of that organization, as well as being devoted in their attention to all movements that seek to better mankind.

MRS. ADDIE LILLIAN (HALL) ZAHREND.

A well-known woman, of Putnam county, Ohio, who was born and reared in Allen county, is Mrs. Addie Lillian (Hall) Zahrend. Her husband was a prominent business man of this county for many years, and was engaged in the lumber business, at Leipsic, at the time of his death, in the spring of 1905. He was a man of high character, a thorough Christian gentleman, a leader in all reform movements. Since his death, Mrs. Zahrend has been devoting her time and attention to the rearing of the children who were left in her care. She is a woman of refinement and culture, deeply devoted to her domestic life.

Mrs. Addie Lillian (Hall) Zahrend was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, December 22, 1861. She is a daughter of John F. and Nancy Jane (Hoagland) Hall.

Mrs. Zahrend spent her early childhood at Gilboa and, when five years of age, moved with her parents to Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, where she was educated and lived until her marriage. She was married, June 25, 1885, to John Carl Zahrend, and to this union six children were born, Martha Marie, Robert Franklin, Eugene Hall, John Carroll, Howard Lewis and Charlotte Lucile. Martha Marie was married, February 15, 1910, to Charles M. Harris, of Leipsic, Ohio, and now lives in Gore county, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have three sons, Harold, Eugene and Charles. Robert



JOHN C. ZAHREND

Franklin married Margaret Cotter, of Philadelphia, October 16, 1909, and now lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Eugene Hall was married, December 17, 1913, to Elizabeth Doyle, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where he now resides. Eugene and his wife have one daughter, Dorothy Elizabeth. The three younger children, John, Howard and Charlotte, are still living with their mother and attending the public schools of Leipsic.

John Carl Zahrend was born in Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany, June 22, 1858, and was the son of Herman and Minnie (Henning) Zahrend. Herman Zahrend was engaged in farming in Germany and in 1870, came to America and located at Liberty Center, Henry county. Upon coming to this country, Herman Zahrend engaged in railroad work and later resumed farming near Napoleon, Henry County, Ohio. A few years later he removed to a farm east of Napoleon and there lived the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed church and a stanch Republican in politics. Herman Zahrend and wife were the parents of seven children, John, who became the husband of Addie Lillian Hall; Henry, who died at the age of twenty; a daughter, who died in her childhood; Frederick, of Napoleon, Ohio, who married Ella Fahringer, and has two sons, Earl and Frederick; Harmon, a farmer living near Liberty Center, Ohio, who married Clara Hudson, and has two children, Goldie and Ralph; Louise, who died February 26, 1905, the wife of James Fahringer, who left her husband with three sons, Harry, Ora and Arthur; Charles, of Lima, Ohio, who married Minnie Freeman, and has three daughters, Vera, Mildred and a baby.

John C. Zahrend attended the common schools, of Liberty Center, Ohio, and later took a course in a Detroit business college. He was first employed as a clerk in a general store at Bluffton, Ohio, and later engaged in the grocery business at that place, with Charles Day. He sold out his interests in the grocery store, a short time after his marriage, and moved to Lima, Ohio, in 1886, where he took a position in a shoe store. A few years later he moved to Leipsic, Ohio, and became a partner of the O. E. Townsend Company, a company operating a large lumber and planing mill, in Leipsic. The firm consisted of John Zahrend, his brother-in-law, O. E. Townsend, and the latter's father, I. M. Townsend. Mr. Zahrend continued in this business until it was sold to the Robert Hixon Lumber Company, after which he was retained by the latter company as the manager of the plant. He was also interested in the Peters Lumber Company, of Irwin, Kentucky.

Mr. Zahrend was in active business in Leipsic until his death, March 7, 1905. He was held in high esteem by his business associates, and throughout

the community where he had lived so many years. He was a man of strict business integrity, and had a fine Christian character. He was a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was interested in everything which pertained to its welfare. He was a class leader, and a member of the official board of the Methodist church at Leipsic. He was especially interested in temperance work.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Zahrend makes her home in Leipsic, with her three unmarried children. One of Mrs. Zahrend's uncles, on her mother's side, James Hoagland, died in his early twenties, while living at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Before his death, he was elected to the state Senate of Indiana, but died before the Legislature convened. He was said to be the youngest man who had been elected to the Indiana Senate up to that time.

FRANK GMEINER.

There are citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who have come here from many states in the Union, as well as many foreign countries. The Austrian empire has contributed some of the best citizens who are now making their homes in this country and among them, Frank Gmeiner, of Ottawa, occupies a prominent place. Coming to this country with his parents when a small boy, he has been a resident of Putnam county, since the spring of 1864, and for the past half century has been actively interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the county. His parents dying shortly after he reached his majority, left him with five younger children, to whom he acted as father and mother.

Frank Gmeiner, the son of George and Mary (Flatz) Gmeiner, was born on December 3, 1852, in Vorardelberg, Tyrol, Austria. He was six years of age when his parents came to America and located in Sandusky county, Ohio, nine miles northwest of Fremont. In that county his father bought forty acres of timbered land, on which was a log school house, that had just been abandoned. He lived in the school house until such time as he was able to provide a better house. George Gmeiner cleared his land and had it partly improved when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the Seventy-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry and after his enlistment had expired, in the spring of 1864, he sold his farm in Sandusky county and moved to Putnam county, where he bought eighty acres of timbered land, in Monterey township, four and one-half miles northwest of

Ottoville. Here again the family lived in a school house for a short time, Mr. Gmeiner renting it for about two or three months until he could build a log cabin for the family. On this farm George Gmeiner and his wife lived, until their death, both dying in October, 1875, the mother dying on the second day of the month and the father on the sixteenth. It is a singular coincidence that both of them died at half past three, on a Friday morning.

When George Gmeiner and his wife died, in the fall of 1875, they left six children. Frank, with whom this narrative deals, was the eldest, he being about twenty-two years of age at the time. The next eldest child was six years younger than he, his eldest sister being fourteen years of age, at which time she became the housekeeper for the orphan children. The youngest child was only seven years of age. The six children were as follows: Frank, of Ottawa; Gebhard, of Washington; Mary, the wife of Charles Duvall, of Havana, Arkansas; Leonard, who is a farmer of this county, living between Kalida and Cloverdale; Kate, the wife of Joseph Leatherman, a farmer living near Vaughnsville, in this county; and George, a baker at St. Louis, Missouri. Upon the death of his parents, Frank became executor of his father's will and at his father's request before his death, took his place as head of the family and took charge of the farm and little flock of fatherless children, who were obedient and were industrious and prospered. A few years later, the paternal estate was divided equally, each of the children going into the world to make a living. All of them have become useful members of society.

Frank Gmeiner moved to Ottoville, and he and J. J. Miller and Andrew Kehres started a tile factory at that place. He continued in that business for about six years and then disposed of it and went into partnership with William Gasser in the planing mill in the same place. He remained in this for about seven years, after which he engaged in the general real estate, loan and insurance business, which he has since followed.

Mr. Gmeiner, very early in life, began to fill official positions in his township and county. At the age of twenty-two he was elected justice of the peace and was re-elected for another term. He has also served as a notary public, taking out a commission more as a convenience to the public than for any remuneration which he might receive from the office. He has been frequently called upon to serve as an executor, administrator, guardian, etc. As a matter of fact, his time was so consumed in this way that in 1896, he disposed of his interest in the planing mill and lumber business and devoted all of his time to the real estate, loan and insurance business.

Mr. Gmeiner was elected recorder of Putnam county in 1902 and took

charge of the office in September of the same year and held it for three years. At the expiration of his first term, he was re-elected and served for another three years. During the second term incumbency, the law was changed as to the term of recorder's office to two years, and he was commissioned to hold over one year more, so that he held the office continuously for seven years, the last term expiring in 1909. Since that time he has continued to reside in Ottawa, and is engaged in various lines of activity. He does a considerable amount of land abstracting, buying and selling real estate, making loans and acting as guardian and administrator for estates. He was appointed by the state board in September, 1913, as a member of the board of liquor license commissioners for Putnam county, and is still serving in this capacity.

Mr. Gmeiner was married on June 7, 1893, to Mary Mallifskey. She was born at New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Martin and Mary (Gorise) Mallifskey. Her parents were natives of German Bohemia, in Austria, and came to Ottoville, Putnam county, in the fall of 1892. Her mother died in this county, October 17, 1893, when her father came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Gmeiner and remained with them until he dropped dead suddenly in the court house at Ottawa, June 21, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Gmeiner are loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of Ohio and also St. Peter's and Paul's Aid Society.

NIMROD SPEAKER.

The oldest resident of Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, is Nimrod Speaker, who has been engaged in business in that place for twenty-nine years. When he first came to the pleasant village of Belmore, there was only a little board depot and two log cabins. During his long residence in the village he has seen it grow to its present prosperous condition, and has borne no inconsiderable part in making it what it is today. A leading business man for more than a quarter of a century, he has been active in promoting the general prosperity of the town, and during a great part of this period, he has held one official position or another. He is now retired from active work and is spending his declining years in retirement, highly honored and respected by everyone who knows him.

Nimrod Speaker, the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Moreland) Speaker,

was born on March 21, 1841, in Licking county, Ohio. His parents were natives of western Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, and came to Licking county with their respective parents. Andrew Speaker was a son of Charles Speaker. Elizabeth Moreland was a daughter of David Moreland, and both the Speaker and Moreland families were early pioneers in Licking county. Andrew Speaker and family moved to Putnam county, in 1857, and located in Blanchard township, not far east of Leipsic, and there, on a farm, the parents both died within four weeks of each other, in 1866.

Soon after the family located in this county, Nimrod Speaker went to Put-in-Bay Island and worked there for some time. However, his health became impaired and, in 1861, he came to Belmore and worked in the timber, cutting out wood and timber, until 1868. In that year he and his brother, George, bought a general store, at Belmore, and continued in partnership, until 1890. In that year, his brother withdrew from the business, and Mr. Speaker continued it alone, until 1897, when he retired from active work. Mr. Speaker has been a participant in the life of Belmore, since its inception. He is better informed on the history of the town than any other man.

Mr. Speaker was married in 1865 to Hattie Ward, who was a native of Ireland and was two years of age when her parents brought her to America, the youngest of several children. At New York both parents died and the children were left orphans. Relatives came and got them and reared them, these relatives living on a farm next to Mr. Speaker's father's home. He and his wife were schoolmates together, in their childhood days. To this union were born three children, George, who died at the age of twenty; Edward, who died in childhood; Katherine, who died on January 2, 1913, leaving her husband, Alvin Hook, with three children, two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Speaker married Ellen Blue, in 1883, who was reared in Ashland county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county, with her brother, William, and now lives five miles east of Belmore. To this second union have been born three children, John Burgan, Harvey and William. John B. is a minister in the Methodist church, and is now stationed in Illinois. He married Lola Lonzway, and has three children. Harvey is a painter and decorator and makes his home in Belmore. William is a farmer at Belmore, who married Gertrude Linkhart. The mother of these three children died, in 1904.

Mr. Speaker has been justice of the peace, for thirteen years, and still has three years more to serve of his present term. He has been clerk of his township for two terms, treasurer for two terms, and has been on the

school board for the past twenty-seven years. He holds his membership in the Masonic lodge, at Deshler, and in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Belmore. He is financially interested in the Belmore Banking Company, and is now the vice-president of that institution.

HARRY F. WENDELL.

A substantial business man of Leipsic, Ohio, is Harry F. Wendell, who has been a resident of the city since 1894. He was in the newspaper business for the first few years after coming to this place and then engaged in the mail order business and has been engaged in selling by mail various things ever since that time. He started in by selling memorial cards by mail and still continues this business, although he has since added various other lines, such as mops, fire extinguishers and vacuum washers. Mr. Wendell has taken a very active part in the civic life of Leipsic since becoming a resident of the city, and has been one of the potent factors in advancing reforms of all kinds.

Harry F. Wendell, the son of Daniel and Hannah (Schaub) Wendell, was born in Noble county, Ohio, in 1867. His father was born in the same county, a son of Harrison Wendell. Harrison Wendell was a son of Frederick Wendell, who was high sheriff of Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, for fifty-two years. Harrison Wendell, the grandfather of H. F. Wendell, was born in Shenandoah Valley, in 1816, and came to Batesville, Ohio, when he was about fourteen years of age and helped to build a seven-room brick house in that place. He carried the brick which went into the building as his father, Frederick, erected it. It was in this building, Harrison Wendell died in 1906, which building was for many years the finest in the community.

Daniel Wendell was reared in Noble county and spent his whole life there. He enlisted in the Civil War in the Seventieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded and died from the effects of the wound in 1870. His wife, Hannah Schaub, was born in Monroe county, Ohio.

H. F. Wendell was reared at Batesville, Ohio, until he was sixteen years of age, and then moved to Cambridge, where he learned the printer's trade, and followed that until the spring of 1894. He came to Leipsic in that year and bought the *Leipsic Tribune*, a paper which had been started

two years previously. He was a practical newspaper man and built up the paper and operated it successfully for five years. He sold the paper in 1899 and has since that year been engaged in mail order business, selling memorials, and he has made an immense success of the venture. He still continues the business and now ships his cards all over the United States and Canada. This venture proving so successful he started the United States Mop Company, another mail order concern, with H. S. Huttinger as partner, and managed this business until the fall of 1910, selling mops all over the United States and foreign countries by mail. He and Mr. Huttinger established another mail order proposition in 1909 and sold chemical fire extinguishers under the name of the United Manufacturing Company. He disposed of this business in 1910, at the same time when he relinquished interest in the mop company. He established the Wendell Vacuum Washer Company in the fall of 1913, which he conducts himself. He has a factory at Leipsic for the manufacture of the washers and employs a large office force to attend to the mail orders. Within a very short time he has built up such a business that he now ships his washers all over the civilized world.

Mr. Wendell became one of the incorporators of the First National Bank, of Leipsic, in 1903, and was made vice-president of the institution. The bank went into voluntary liquidation, two years later, and completed its business by paying all depositors in full. He was secretary of the board of trade and for a time vice-president of the Leipsic Industrial Association. He was also president, for a time, of the Law and Order League, an organization which was promoted to improve the moral welfare of the city. This league was very active, after Leipsic went "dry," about ten years ago. Mr. Wendell was one of the most active men in the league and, while the fight was being made to vote the saloons out, he made a canvass of seventeen school districts with petitions signed by the farmers asking the city merchants to take the side of the "drys." These petitions taken together made a row of names fifteen feet long, and was a potent factor in subsequently ousting the saloons from Leipsic.

Mr. Wendell has served on the Leipsic council and is now a member of the school board. He has been asked, repeatedly, to run for mayor, but has steadfastly refused to make the race for the office. He has also served on the board of health, of his city. In fact, there is probably not a man in the city who has been more active in its general welfare than Mr. Wendell, and in all things he has tried to do that which would be the best for the city at large.

Mr. Wendell was married in 1892, to Laura Gallogly, who was a native of Licking county, Ohio, is a daughter of Jacob and Frances (Brown) Gallogly, and to this union has been born one son, Francis, who is now attending the public schools of Leipsic.

Mr. Wendell is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and has attained to the thirty-second degree. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are active workers in the Presbyterian church, and he has performed the duties of treasurer of his church, and for many years, was a member of the board of trustees. At the present time he is an elder in the denomination. In all things, Mr. Wendell has tried to promote the moral welfare of his community, and it is safe to say that he is distinctively one of the representative men of Leipsic.

LLEWELLYN GEIGER.

One of the enterprising and rising young men, who are native born to Putnam county, Ohio, and who are making names and reputations for themselves in the marts of trade is Llewellyn Geiger, whose father was also born in this county. Marked aptitude and diligence characterize the activities of this young man, who is highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities and for his quiet, gentlemanly methods of transacting his business affairs in the community where he is carving out a career for himself.

Llewellyn Geiger was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 29, 1883, a son of David G. and Mary (Hilty) Geiger. David Geiger was born on November 7, 1852, in Riley township, a son of John G. and Mary (Lugibihl) Geiger. John G. Geiger was born in 1819, in Berne, Switzerland, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Geiger.

John G. Geiger came to America, with his parents, in 1838, when he was nineteen years of age, and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he entered government land. He experienced the usual pioneer hardships, but cleared his land and built a log house of two rooms and a log stable. It was in that house that David G. Geiger was born, one of a family of three sons and five daughters.

David G. Geiger attended the public school and, during the periods when he was not in school, helped his father to clear the land on the farm and to operate the threshing machine which, in those days, was operated by horse-power. At the age of twenty-three, in 1875, he married Mary Hilty, a



MR. AND MRS. LLEWELLYN GEIGER.

daughter of Peter and Catherine (Neumchwander) Hilty, both of whom were of pioneer stock.

After his marriage, he settled on a part of his father's farm, where he still lives. His wife died on April 22, 1885, when Llewellyn Geiger, the subject, was not quite two years of age. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Geiger. They are Matilda, the wife of David Bucher, who lives in Riley township; Helena, the wife of Amos Hilty, who lives in Allen county; Gideon, who married Elizabeth Steiner and lives in Lima, Ohio; Elizabeth, the wife of Ezra Steiner; Llewellyn, the principal of this sketch, and Tillman, who married Rosa Suter and lives in Riley township.

David Geiger was married a second time, in 1886 or 1887, his second wife being Rosine Gilliam, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilliam. Six children were born to this union, also, who are, Mary, unmarried, who lives at home; Hulda, the wife of Oswin Gerber, of Pandora, Ohio; Hiram, who married Cecil Starkey, and lives at Pandora, Ohio; John, Melvina and William, who live at home.

David Geiger has always done general farming and has been eminently successful. He is a loyal member of the Swiss Mennonite church and is active in its work.

He is a staunch member of the Democratic party and has always taken an active interest in political matters. For three years he has been a school director, an office which he has filled to the complete satisfaction of the citizens.

Llewellyn Geiger was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 29, 1883. He grew to manhood on the old homestead and attended district school, No. 7, until he was seventeen years of age. He continued to help his father in the operation of the farm until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he began to work as a carpenter, a trade which he followed for three years, spending a large portion of that time working in a saw-mill.

When he was twenty-four years of age, September 15, 1907, Llewellyn Geiger married Pauline Suter, who was born on November 30, 1882, a daughter of David D. and Elizabeth (Neumchwander) Suter, of Riley township. David D. Suter was born in Riley township on April 14, 1852, the son of Christian and Anna (Basinger) Suter. Christian Suter was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Suter, Sr., Elizabeth Neumchwander was the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Steiner) Neumchwander, both of pioneer stock and Swiss descent.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Geiger spent seventeen

months in making a tour to the Pacific coast, spending several months in California and Oregon. On their return, Mr. Geiger engaged in the planing mill business, buying an interest in the firm of D. C. Shank & Company, of which concern he is now vice-president, assistant manager and a director.

Mr. and Mrs. Geiger are both members of the Grace Mennonite church and are active in the church work. He is a member of the Democratic party, has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his community, and in his party affiliations has served as a precinct committeeman.

Llewellyn Geiger is a clean-cut and progressive young business man, of good character and unquestioned integrity. He is well known and universally respected.

JOHN WILLIAM ELLERBROCK.

The Ellerbrock family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1835, when the parents of John William Ellerbrock came from Hanover, Germany, and settled south of Glandorf. Mr. Ellerbrock grew to maturity in this county and was engaged, for the greater portion of his life, in the manufacture of woolen goods, at Glandorf. In fact, this was the main business of the village of Glandorf for many years. In addition to his woolen manufacturing, he was also engaged in farming, but devoted most of his time and attention to the woolen business. He was a pioneer in the county, and a man who was highly respected by everyone who knew him. He and his good wife reared a large family of children to lives of usefulness, and they, in turn, married and are rearing families of their own.

The late John William Ellerbrock was born in Hanover, Germany, February 10, 1830, and died at his home in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, May 25, 1914. He was a son of William and Mary C. (Kracht) Ellerbrock, and came to America, in 1836, with his parents, being only six years of age at the time the family located in this county. He was reared amidst pioneer conditions and, from his earliest boyhood, knew what it was to swing an ax and handle the rifle. He received such education as was afforded by the schools of his home neighborhood and, immediately after his marriage, he and several of his friends started the Glandorf woolen mills, and for the most of his life, was engaged in this particular line of business. Later in life, he invested in farming lands and gave some of his attention to the tilling of the soil. He was an excellent business man and his integrity was such that it was never questioned.

John W. Ellerbrock was married on October 22, 1856, to Mary A. Utendorf, who was born on February 9, 1838, south of Glandorf, in this county, and was a daughter of Joseph and Mary A. (Gerdeman) Utendorf. To this union fourteen children were born, ten of whom are still living, Andrew, deceased; a twin brother to Andrew, who died in infancy; Mary, the wife of Matthew Schroeder; Catherine, a nun; Theodore, of Ottawa; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry E. Schweickert, of Peru, Illinois; Philomina, a nun in the same convent with her sister, Catherine; Frank, of Peru, Illinois; Theresa, who is living in Glandorf; Charles B., a business man of Glandorf; Emma, the wife of Peter A. Missler, of Glandorf; Frances, the wife of John Geier, of Galion, Ohio; Joseph, who died in infancy, and Bennie, a twin brother of Emma, who died in infancy. The mother of these children died on July 23, 1910, and the father, as before mentioned, died on May 25, 1914.

The Ellerbrock family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf. Theresa and Charles B. are now living in the old family residence, in Glandorf. John W. Ellerbrock was a man who was widely known throughout the county, and, during his career of nearly eighty years in the county, there was never a time when he was not ready and willing to help those less fortunate than himself. He was charitable to the faults of his neighbors, kind and indulgent to his own family, and a genial and whole-souled citizen, who always stood for the best interests of his community.

FRANK K. HAMMETT.

Almost any business will give a substantial return if it is properly managed. Proper management involves a careful consideration of the relation between revenue and operating expenses. Frank K. Hammett has prospered and has made a success of the drayage and transfer business at Leipsic, because he has never failed to look after his business carefully. Mr. Hammett is one of the substantial citizens of Leipsic.

He was born in 1861 at Covington, Ohio, the son of James H. and Elizabeth (Dunning) Hammett. His father came from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, with his parents to London county, Ohio. He grew up in northeastern Ohio and became the driver of a stagecoach along the shore of Lake Erie, between Cleveland and Buffalo. He was employed to drive a coach, hauling the man who had charge of building the Rock Island rail-

road across Iowa. It was all new country. They stopped at Marengo, a little frontier tavern, and there he met and became much interested in the daughter of the landlord of the little hotel. She was Elizabeth Dunning, the daughter of Theodore Dunning who was a pioneer by nature and inclination, a genial old man who could play the fiddle.

James H. Hammett returned to Ohio and wrote to the girl occasionally. Again he drove across Iowa, along the line of the road in course of construction, to Council Bluffs. When they reached it after a long and tedious journey, they found the town consisted of a tent and a party of men who were there to help build the railroad. In later years Mr. Hammett saw it as a thriving city.

He came back to Ohio but finally returned to Iowa and married the girl. He came back to Covington, Ohio, and worked in an elevator for a time and later bought a farm here, about 1863, where he lived until about 1866. Mr. Dunning, his wife's father, moved here during the war and started the old Leipsic hotel in a two-story frame building, on the corner, where the Geltz store is now located. There were only a few houses then and not over forty inhabitants in the town aside from the railroad construction gang. The old man got the pioneer fever again about 1866, fixed up a pioneer wagon and he and his wife drove to Nebraska, where they entered land and spent the rest of their lives with their sons and daughters who also entered land and prospered in the same community.

Some time after his marriage James H. Hammett moved to Leipsic and took a place in a store. Later he moved to Leipsic and worked in an elevator for two years. Finally he and John Alt went into the general merchandise business and prospered. They extended the business and built an elevator and did a large business in grain. They met with reverses, however, and had to retire, Mr. Hammett turning his attention to the insurance business. He later moved to Toledo and took a place in a large agricultural implement business, living there until his death. Mr. Hammett was twice married.

By his first marriage were born three children, Luella, Frank K., the subject of this sketch, and William W. Frank K. was about three years old when his mother died. His father then married Mrs. Ann Elizabeth (Black) Waters, a widow, and to this second union five children were born, Lily, who died at the age of three; Eva Netta, Alva DeLoss, Lettie Arlina and Edward Early.

Frank K. Hammett grew up at Leipsic and after working in various lines, in July, 1878, began draying at Leipsic and has followed this business

for thirty-seven years. Most of the time he has had from ten to twelve men employed and many teams. He has prospered exceedingly in this business. He was agent for the American Express Company for over fifteen years, or until March, 1913.

Mr. Hammett was married to Mary M. Hayes, in 1883. She was born in Warren county, Ohio. One son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hammett, December 28, 1884, Harry H. He attended the Tri-State Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and has been a stenographer most of the time since. He has worked mostly in railroad services; has traveled over most of the United States and in fourteen foreign countries. He has been in Cuba, Mexico, Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, where he spent two years, China, Island of Guam and most of the principal European countries. In fact, his chief occupation has been traveling. He has a vast fund of information first hand. Altogether Harry H. Hammett has traveled not less than one hundred and fifteen thousand miles, undoubtedly, the most widely-traveled man in Putnam county, Ohio.

Frank K. Hammett is popular in Leipsic and an influential citizen in his community. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Hammett remembers Leipsic in its early days. He has seen deer between Main street and Leipsic Junction and wild game in abundance where the town now stands.

THEODORE DETERS.

A prominent citizen of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, who was born in this village, before the Civil War, and has spent his entire life in the county, is Theodore Deters. Both of his parents were born in Germany, and they settled in this county in 1841. Since that time, the Deters family have been residents of Glandorf. Mr. Deters has served as assessor of Ottawa township, for more than twenty years, and has filled various other official positions in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

Theodore Deters, the son of Frank William and Mary (Redecker) Deters, was born on May 13, 1858, in Glandorf, near the present location of the tile factory. His father was a native of Oldenburg, Germany, his birth having occurred there on April 14, 1814, coming to America at the age of nine, having previously lost both of his parents. Upon coming to America he became a sailor and, from the age of seventeen until he was twenty-six years of age, he traveled over much of the world in a sailing

vessel. He then left the sea and, for seven years, worked in a pottery factory at Cincinnati. It was while living there he married Mary Redecker. His wife was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in 1833, with her parents, Henry and Mary Redecker. The Redecker family located in Putnam county, Ohio, south of Ottawa, where the father bought a farm and lived the remainder of his days. Frank W. Deters and his wife moved to Glandorf, in Putnam county, in 1841, where he bought forty acres and settled down to the life of a farmer. Later he bought one hundred and twenty acres north of New Cleveland, but spent all of his life in the village of Glandorf, where he died, in 1887. He served as land appraiser on two different occasions and for many years was assessor of Ottawa township, filling this office for more than eighteen years, from 1856 to 1874. He and his family were loyal members of the Catholic church. His widow died on August 26, 1910. Ten children were born to Frank W. Deters and wife, only three of whom are now living, Theodore, of Glandorf; Frank, of Hamler, Henry county, Ohio, and William, a farmer living three miles north of Glandorf.

Theodore Deters received his education in the schools of Glandorf and worked on his father's farm during his boyhood days. He remained at home until his marriage and then began farming for himself, continuing to reside in Glandorf. He served as assessor of Ottawa township, from 1891 until the spring of 1914. He has also been the appraiser of the Glandorf German Building and Loan Association, for six years. He has taken an active part in the civic life of Glandorf, and has been a member of the council for three years.

Mr. Deters was married in 1882, to Magdalene Wischmeyer, who was a native of Hanover, Germany, and, in 1879, came to America with her father, Henry, and her sister, settling in Glandorf, where an elder brother, Herman, had previously located. Her father spent the rest of his life here with his children.

Mr. Deters and his wife are the parents of six children, Frank, a painter who married Magdalene Lehman, and has two children, Lenora and Edna; Mary, the wife of Edward Gerdig, of Ottawa; Magdalene, who is still living with her parents; Frances, who married Charles Ellerbrock, a farmer of Glandorf, and has three children, Carlos, Mildred and Bertha; Joseph, who is now teaching in the public schools at New Cleveland, Ohio; Henry, who is still living at home with his parents.

Mr. Deters and his family are all members of the St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf. He is also president of the St. John's Aid Society.

GEORGE FRANKLIN POLK SMITH.

An enterprising newspaper man, of Leipsic, is George Franklin Polk Smith, who is the able editor of the *Free Press*, in that place. His father was the editor of this same paper for many years, and Mr. Smith has worked in newspaper offices from his boyhood days. He has had a very interesting career, having spent many years in professional baseball, where he made a record as a player. He received an injury, in 1910, which compelled him to leave the profession and since that time he has given all of his time to newspaper work. Since the death of his father, in 1912, has had sole charge of the *Free Press*.

George F. Smith, the son of William W. and Viola Ann (Baughman) Smith, was born at Leipsic, Ohio, June 14, 1888. His father was connected with the *Free Press* in Leipsic for many years, and was editor and owner up until the time of his death, February 16, 1912.

Mr. Smith spent his boyhood days in Leipsic, and after finishing two years in the high school in this place, entered Lima College, as a student, but did not complete his college course. When he was sixteen years of age, he became a member of the Leipsic Baseball Club, and while with this club had a state-wide reputation. When he was about eighteen years of age, he branched out as a professional baseball player with the Zanesville team, in Ohio. This team was in the Ohio-Pennsylvania League, and he remained with Zanesville for two years, and then spent one season in Galveston, Texas, playing with the team of that city, after which he went to Peoria, Illinois, and joined the Three I League. After spending half a season with this team, he went to Kewanee, Illinois, where he finished the season. The next two seasons were spent in the Ohio State League, and he was in this league when he injured a ligament, in 1910, and had to retire from professional baseball. Since that time he has given all of his attention to newspaper work, and upon the death of his father assumed control of the paper which that parent had so ably edited for many years. During all of the time he was playing baseball, he spent the rest of the year in his father's newspaper office and, when he took over the paper in 1912, he was thoroughly conversant with every detail of newspaper management. Consequently, he was abundantly able to take charge of the paper and he has already demonstrated marked ability in its management. He conducts a first-class paper, all of which is printed in his own plant. He is constantly on the alert for up-to-date methods, and has added a number of

features which have increased the circulation as well as the usefulness of the paper.

Mr. Smith was married on April 5, 1910, on his father's sixtieth birthday, to Mary Magdalene Orians, who was born near Kirby, Ohio, and reared at Upper Sandusky. She is the eldest of ten children born to Frank J. and Rachel (Cooper) Orians.

Mr. Smith and his wife are the parents of three children, George F., Jr., born on January 29, 1911, who died five days later; Robert James, born on June 19, 1912, and Mary Janet, born on April 21, 1914.

Mr. Smith is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party and advocates its principles in his paper. He belongs to the Findlay Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Ottawa Council, Knights of Columbus, and the Wadras Caravan of the Alhambra, of Toledo. He also holds his membership in the Leipsic Club. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

JACOB A. SUTER.

The career of Jacob A. Suter contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purpose, which, carried to successful issue, has won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. The systematic and honorable methods, which he has ever followed, have resulted, not only in winning the confidence of those with whom he has had business dealings, but also in building up a large and profitable business. The Pandora Overall Company, in which Mr. Suter is superintendent, vice-president and a member of the board of directors, is one of Putnam county's leading industrial enterprises, and to Mr. Suter is due a large share of the credit for its successful career.

Jacob A. Suter was born on September 25, 1874, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Lugibühl) Suter, the former of whom was born in 1824, in Wayne county, Ohio. Abraham Suter was the son of John and Elizabeth Suter. John Suter was a native of Switzerland.

Jacob A. Suter spent his boyhood days on the old homestead farm where he attended the district schools and helped his father during the summer months.

At the age of twenty-three, on February 10, 1898, Mr. Suter was mar-

ried to Barbara Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. The family history of Abraham M. Amstutz will be found in the sketch of P. A. Amstutz, a brother of Mrs. Suter, and the history of Mrs. Abraham M. Amstutz will be found in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, her brother. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacob A. Suter have been born three children, Elda Loretta, who is a student in the high school; Orlo Edison, who is in school, and Royle Kenneth.

After his marriage, Mr. Suter took charge of the old home place. He lived here for about one year and a half and then removed to Pandora, where he became interested in the Pandora Manufacturing Company. He was one of the organizers of the enterprise, the other members of the firm being the Gerber brothers, John Amstutz and Albert Barry. Mr. Suter took the position of secretary and treasurer of the new company and looked after the mechanical end of the business. About four years later, the mill burned, and the company was reorganized under the name of the Pandora Overall Company. Since the organization of the new firm, which has an annual production of over two hundred thousand dollars, Mr. Suter has acted as superintendent and has served in the capacity of vice-president and a member of the board of directors.

Reverting to Mr. Suter's family history, John Suter, his grandfather, came with his wife to America in the early days and settled in Wayne county, Ohio, near Orrville. It was here that his family of twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, was educated and reared.

Abraham Suter, one of the elder children, was bound out at the age of eight years to learn the shoemaker's trade. He remained at home until he was a young man. He then came to Putnam county, where, for a time, he worked for different farmers in Riley township. Subsequently, he entered a tract of eighty acres of land from the government, one mile east of Pandora. This land was covered with virgin timber and a great deal of water. Abraham Suter first built a log cabin and barn and then proceeded to clear his farm. A few acres were prepared each year until, finally, the whole farm had been put under cultivation. Before entering his land from the government, Abraham Suter had been married to Elizabeth Lugibihl, the daughter of John Lugibihl and wife. It was shortly after his marriage, that he started in to find a new home in the wilderness. Abraham Suter and wife passed through the usual pioneer experiences in clearing their land, draining it and getting it ready for the plow. It was on this homestead, the family of twelve children lived. This family consisted of John, Mary, Peter A., Barbara, Catherine, Fannie, Susan, Magdalene, Elizabeth, Jacob

A., Sarah and one who died in infancy. Abraham Suter added to his original farm of eighty acres and greatly improved his additional farm holding. He died on the old home place, having been killed by a runaway team, in November, 1897. About one year later, in November, 1898, his wife passed away. She was a member of the Mennonite church and was a splendid Christian woman, a devoted wife and a loving mother. Abraham Suter was also a member of the Mennonite church. He was an ardent Democrat and an industrious, hard-working citizen, a man of high ideals and unquestioned integrity.

Jacob A. Suter, like his father, is a man of unquestioned integrity in the community where he lives and where his active business work is carried on. He is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church, as is also his wife. Jacob A. Suter is a clean-cut, progressive young business man and one of the original organizers of one of Putnam county's largest industries. He is recognized as a good citizen and a man of splendid attainments.

W. H. HICKEY, M. D., AND W. D. HICKEY, M. D.

Men who have obtained success in their professional work are always honored and respected by the community in which they have lived and labored. Dearly loved are those who always find time to work in the interest of the whole community, inspiring others to industry, public spirit and faithfulness. Such men never fail to raise the standard of life in their community and the biographer is always proud to record the incidents of their lives. A descendant of men who fought bravely for freedom in the Revolutionary War and who, himself, has been a loyal patriot in another way is William Henry Hickey, M. D., of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.

William Henry Hickey, M. D., was born in 1847, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Mary (Wilkins) Hickey. Henry Hickey was born on June 20, 1820, in Licking county, the son of William and Phoebe (Shambaugh) Hickey. William Hickey came from Winchester county, Virginia, not far from Baltimore, Maryland, coming to Ohio in 1813, and locating in Licking on a leased farm of forty acres, owned by Congressman Stansbury. William Hickey was the son of Edward Hickey. Edward Hickey was an Irish boy from County Clare, Ireland, who came over with nineteen others under a contract to work for their passage after they ar-

rived in America. They were employed building docks, at Baltimore, and the entire twenty, with their employers, enlisted in the Revolutionary army under the command of Ewing, who was with Washington at the crossing of the Delaware. Ewing's force was kept on one side of the river, while Washington went across and won the victory.

William Hickey was a soldier in the War of 1812 and he and his father are buried side by side in Barnes' graveyard, near Wilkins Corner, in Licking county.

Mary Wilkins was born on a farm adjoining the Hickey farm, in Licking county, a daughter of Henry and Magdalena (Smootz) Wilkins. They were from the Shenandoah valley, in Virginia, and from here they came to Ohio. Her parents were of Huguenot ancestry. Her father built the second grist-mill in Licking county, a mill that ran until the close of the Civil War.

Henry Hickey and wife moved to Putnam county, October 6, 1851, bringing with them their two sons, Dr. William H. and Reese F. Henry Hickey located on a farm one mile south of Gilboa and lived in that community the rest of his life. His wife died on October 17, 1865. She was the mother of William H., Reese, Magdalena, Rolla and Lyman David, the latter dying when two years old. Rolla died at Hammond, Indiana, in 1912. Magdalena is the wife of Charles F. Stolzenbach, Jr., the well-known baker of Lima. Reese lives south of Gilboa, on a farm.

After the death of his first wife, Henry Hickey married Sarah Harris and to this union was born one son, Edward F., who has been in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, at Woodstock, Canada, for many years. Henry Hickey died on April 21, 1871.

Dr. William H. Hickey grew up on the farm south of Gilboa and attended college at Haysville in Ashland county. He studied medicine with T. E. Paul, M. D., of Ottawa. He attended the Medical College, in Cincinnati, and also the medical department of Western Reserve University, at Cleveland, where he was graduated on April 1, 1870. He began the practice of medicine, in Leipsic, April 15, 1870, and here he has practiced medicine since that time. Dr. Hickey also has a farm at the north edge of Leipsic.

Dr. William H. Hickey was married on February 10, 1870, to Rachel Creighton. She was born in Kalida, and was a daughter of John E. and Mary Elizabeth (Stout) Creighton. Her father was left an orphan and brought to Putnam county by an uncle, William McClure, from Pennsylvania, who was county treasurer of Putnam county, during the seventies, and who died while in office. John E. Creighton grew up and served as

county auditor, of Putnam county. Mary E. Stout was a daughter of Elisha and Abigail Stout. Elisha Stout came from Coshocton county, Ohio, during the late twenties and entered land where the town of Gilboa is now located. In fact, he laid out the first plat of the town and also built the first grist-mills at Gilboa, one located two miles up the river, while another was built two miles down the river. His was the first water-power mill in the county and in order to run it he had to go to Columbus to get a permit from the legislature. Coming home, he started in the afternoon and reached Gilboa in the evening of the next day. He had a wonderful constitution. John E. Creighton entered land where Leipsic Junction is now located, and platted the first town lots at Leipsic. It was first called Craton-town. At Leipsic Station, lots were later platted.

William H. Hickey and wife are the parents of four children living and two dead, as follows: Brandon D., Jennie C., Wiley D., and Floyd. Brandon was born in 1871, and is now yardmaster on the Nickel Plate railroad at Continental. He graduated from the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, and the Lima Business College. He was admitted to the practice of law, in Angola, and practiced there for three years. He married Maude M. Nease and has one son, Robert. Jennie C., who graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, lives near Limon, Colorado. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., was born in 1874. He attended the Hiram College, where he graduated in 1895. Upon graduation, at Hiram, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, in the fall of 1896, graduating in 1900. He immediately began practicing, at Leipsic, Ohio, and has practiced with his father since that time. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., was married on June 12, 1905, to Eleanor A. Rowland, of Columbus Grove, the daughter of David Rowland and wife. Mrs. W. D. Hickey attended the Oberlin conservatory of Music. Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Hickey have one daughter, Dorothy Ellen. Floyd D. lives at Limon, Colorado, on a cattle ranch owned by him, his sister, Jennie, and their father. He was born in 1882, and graduated from the Ann Arbor high school, and at the Eastman Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York.

Dr. William H. Hickey has served as township treasurer for two terms; mayor of Leipsic two terms, and a member of the council and board of education. He was health officer of Van Buren township for twenty-five consecutive years and is the present health officer at Leipsic. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., has been mayor two terms, health officer of Leipsic two terms, and is at present a member of the city council. Brandon was justice of the

peace of Van Buren township for two terms. Brandon and Dr. W. D. were both in Company A., Sixth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in the Spanish-American War. Dr. Wiley D. was for five years assistant surgeon of the Second Regiment, Ohio National Guard, with the rank of first lieutenant, and, at the time of his resignation, was ranking first lieutenant in the medical department. William H. Hickey, M. D., was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Leipsic, and his sons are also members of the same local lodge. Brandon is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Dr. Wiley D. is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. William H. Hickey was elected a member of the school board at the first election after the law was passed authorizing the election of women and was treasurer of the board all the time she was a member.

William H. Hickey, M. D., and Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., are both members of the Putnam County Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Society. William H. Hickey, M. D., was pension examiner under Cleveland's administration. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., is a member of the Egbert Spanish War Veterans' Association, at Toledo, Ohio.

There are only six or seven people in Leipsic who were here when W. H. Hickey, M. D., came. He is very well known in this part of the state, as an able physician and a public-spirited man. He has also given his children exceptional educational advantages, far beyond the average, at a great personal sacrifice to himself. He has lived and guided his children so that they feel a kind fellowship with him and honor him as dutiful and loving sons and daughters.

BENJAMIN F. SEFTZ, SR.

The future of this country lies in the hands of the present generation. Those who contribute most to the welfare of future generations are those who are at this minute keenly interested in progressive movements affecting all lines of human endeavor—those who are ever active in their business, their trade or profession. These are the men who acquire splendid fortunes, accumulate vast and fertile farms and a lucrative and enviable professional practice. These are the men who serve their fellow men faithfully, whatever may be their chosen profession. One of the well-known citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and a man who has been foremost in the business affairs of this

county is Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president of the Exchange Bank, of Columbus Grove.

Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., was born on September 16, 1853, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm. He first saw the light of day in an old log cabin and has slept many a night under a slab board roof of a log cabin, through which the snow sifted in his face. His parents were pioneer settlers of Putnam county. He is the son of David and Lydia (Hufford) Seitz. David Seitz was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1819. His parents were David and Catherine Seitz.

The father of Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., grew up in Fairfield county, Ohio, and while living there married Lydia Hufford, who was born and reared in Perry county, Ohio, the daughter of Daniel Hufford. David Seitz and wife moved to Putnam county in 1847, settling in Union township. They purchased land for one dollar and seventy-five cents an acre, all of which was wild wood. Until Mr. Seitz could build a log cabin, the family lived at the home of Abram Funk, nearby. Before the family was brought to the cabin, David Seitz had partly furnished it. The first night after the arrival of the family, he finished enough floor upon which to place a bed, and the wife cooked the first meal beside a sugar stump. It was in this cabin that Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., was born and spent his boyhood days. He still remembers seeing a few wild deer and many turkeys during his youth. On this farm his parents lived and died. David Seitz had more than ordinary political influence in his community. He was a justice of the peace, land appraiser and township trustee. Benjamin F. Seitz lived on this farm until his marriage.

He was married in 1877 to Sarah J. Funk, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Clevenger) Funk, a grand-daughter of Abraham Funk, who sheltered them when his father's family first came to Putnam county. Mrs. Seitz was born in Sugar Creek township. Her father and mother both grew up in Putnam county. Abraham Funk came from Fairfield county before the arrival of the Seitz family. Elizabeth Clevenger was the daughter of Samuel Clevenger, who was reared in Putnam county and the son of pioneer parents, coming from Franklin county. They settled where Vaughnsville is now located. Samuel Clevenger's father owned considerable land along Sugar creek.

After Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., were married they settled on a tract of wooden land in Sugar Creek township. The land was just as it had been left by the Indians, except for a small patch of deadened timber. Mr. Seitz still has the sheepskin deed that was signed by President James K.

Polk. He and his wife went to housekeeping in a log cabin until Mr. Seitz could build a house. He owned eighty acres of land then and he improved this farm and added an adjoining eighty. Later he added one hundred and fourteen acres across the road in the same township, a total of two hundred and seventy-four acres. He continued farming there until 1905, when he moved to Columbus Grove, and has lived here since that time. He still owns this farm, except fifty-seven acres, which he sold.

About twelve years ago Mr. Seitz purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank, and upon the death of Mr. Crawford, who was then president, in 1911, he became president of the bank and served in that capacity until it was reorganized as a state bank. He decided that the president should be at the bank regularly during business hours and that another should hold the place, so he gave up this office and the present incumbent has served as president, Mr. Seitz serving as vice-president.

To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., seven children have been born, one of whom, Bessie, died at the age of fourteen months. Those living are John D., Maude, Peter, Benjamin F., Jr., David and Marion. John D., who lives on part of his father's farm, married Nellie Reynolds, and has four children, May, Helen, Lucile and Margery. Maud, who married J. D. Guffy, lives in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and has four children, Roy, Russell, Fay and Vestina. Peter, who lives in Sugar Creek township, on the old homestead, married Dula Dresky and has four children, Charles, Clarence (deceased), Blanche and Myrtle. Benjamin F., Jr., who lives in Columbus Grove, married Myrtle Reiger and has three children, Emerson, Christine and Mildred. David, who lives in Columbus Grove, married Vida Sakemiller and has one daughter, Donna. Marion F. is now fifteen years old.

Mr. Seitz recalls the early roads of Putnam county, when it required a whole day to go six miles from the farm to Columbus Grove, and back again. At the time Mr. Seitz was rearing his family it required a day to haul four or five hogs to Columbus Grove.

Mr. Seitz and wife belong to the Christian church and Mr. Seitz is a trustee in this denomination, also being chorister for some time in the church at Columbus Grove. Formerly he was clerk of the Ottawa River church, in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Seitz is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Few men in Putnam county are better known than Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., and a few men are more entitled to the confidence and esteem of the community which he enjoys to the fullest measure, than he. He is one of those men of whom it may be truly said when his last work is finished, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

LEVI HUMMON.

One of the oldest pioneer settlers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Levi Hummon, whose whole career, of more than seventy-seven years, has been spent within this county. He and his young bride started in with an eighty-acre farm in 1859, where they lived until 1906. Mr. Hummon had one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land when he moved to Leipsic, in the spring of 1906, which is the direct result of his own work, supplemented by that of his wife and children. He and his good wife have reared a large family of children to lives of usefulness and honor. A greater thing than this can no man do.

Levi Hummon, the son of John and Mary (Wininger) Hummon, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, December 31, 1837. His father, a son of Peter and Mary (Carn) Hummon, was born at Kittanning, Pennsylvania, in 1815. Peter Hummon was a native of Pennsylvania, a farmer in his early life and, later, a distiller of whiskey and applejack. Mary Carn was a native of Holland, who came to America alone, when a girl, and located in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, where she met and married Peter Hummon.

It is interesting to note how the Hummon family came to locate in Ohio. After Peter Hummon and his wife had been married several years, and she had reared six children, she came, alone on horseback, to Wyandot county, Ohio, where she entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land. After accomplishing this unique feat she returned to Pennsylvania and then, with her husband and six children, together with all of their household effects, came back to Ohio and made their home in the wilderness. They made the overland trip with an ox team and located in Wyandot county, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Peter Hummon and wife were the parents of ten children, eight daughters and two sons, one of whom was John Hummon, the father of Levi.

John Hummon was reared on the farm in Wyandot county, and there experienced all the hardships and thrills of pioneer life. When he was a small boy he was often frightened by the Indians, who, though harmless, enjoyed seeing the lad run. He remained on the homestead until he grew to manhood, and, about 1836, married Mary Wininger, a native of Germany, who came to Ohio with her parents and located in Wyandot county. Immediately after their marriage, John Hummon and his young bride moved from Wyandot county to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837, where they entered government land. This farm he cleared, developed and



MR. AND MRS. LEVI HUMMON.

lived upon the remainder of his life. There were ten children born to John Hummon and wife, five of whom are still living, Levi, Adam, deceased; George, deceased; David, Peter, Minerva, Clara and Ada, deceased. One boy, William, died at the age of thirteen, and a daughter, Mary Ann, died at the age of two.

Levi Hummon was born the year after his parents located in Putnam county, consequently he was reared amid pioneer conditions. He attended the typical log-cabin school house with its slab desks, pine benches and puncheon floors. He helped his father clear the farm and erect the buildings. The first house on the old place was the ordinary log cabin. This was replaced a few years later by a hewed-log house, which was more pretentious, and it was on this farm Levi Hummon remained until his marriage in 1859. After teaching in one of the schools in that township for a year, he and his young wife located on a farm of eighty acres in Van Buren township, which they finally purchased. This farm is situated about three miles east of Leipsic, to which four years later, they added another eighty acres. The farm was gradually brought under cultivation by Mr. Hummon and his growing sons, and it is safe to say there is not a more attractive or better improved farm in the county.

Levi Hummon was married on November 24, 1859, to Amanda C. Bolton, of Hancock county, Ohio. She was a daughter of John and Mary Bolton and was born in Stark county, Ohio, October 29, 1840, her parents being natives of Pennsylvania. To this union have been born eleven children, Francis, Mary Matilda, John A., Ella L., Cyrus, Byron D., Irvin F., Jenna, Nettie May, Charles E. and Oscar P. Francis, born on November 3, 1860, was first married to Maggie Sutter, who died; later he married Della Hopkins, who is also deceased. His third wife was Ella Cole, of Tacoma, Washington. Two children born to the first marriage, who died in infancy, and to the second marriage six children were born, Merrill, Roy, Carl, Fay, Ethel and Orlo. Mary Matilda, born on July 16, 1862, married Marion Learn, now deceased, and has two children, Glenn and Maud. She makes her home in Detroit, Michigan. John A., born on September 13, 1864, married Elizabeth Phfeister, and now lives in Van Buren township. To this union eight children have been born, Floyd, Esta, Guy, Carrol, Dale, Ona, Ormond and one who died in infancy. Ella B., born on September 20, 1866, died at the age of two. Cyrus, born on January 27, 1869, married Ella Dimple, Vernon, Michigan, and has one daughter, Leota. Byron B., born on July 20, 1871, was first married to Mattie Altman, and after her death, to Bertha Mintie. To his first marriage were born three children,

Derril, Vera and Ina. He is now living at Carmangay, Alberta, Canada. Irvin F., born on July 9, 1874, married Emma Simmons, and has one son, Irvin F., Jr. Irvin F. now lives at Berwin, Illinois. Jenna, born on October 26, 1876, died on October 29, 1876. Nettie May, born on June 27, 1878, died at the age of nineteen. Charles E., of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, born on June 25, 1881, was married to Mamie William, and has two daughters, Beulah and Elizabeth. Oscar P., of Leipsic, born on April 18, 1884, married Ethel A. Bush, and has one son, Raymond.

Mr. Hummon has served as township trustee and as a member of the school board. He has also been treasurer of his township. He has always given his support to the Democratic party and been active in its affairs. Although he has not joined any religious organization he attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Mr. Hummon is still hale and hearty, despite his advanced age, and is able to recall many pioneer experiences, through which he passed in his boyhood days.

LOUIS W. KUNTZ.

Success in the mercantile business is founded on strict integrity, good business management and courteous dealings with the public. Such a business is likewise an evidence of the possession of these qualities, because no man can succeed very well without them. The Kuntz store, at Leipsic, Ohio, founded by the late Louis W. Kuntz, is conducted on these principles.

Louis W. Kuntz was born, in 1859, at West Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Christian and Mary (Dietz) Kuntz. Christian Kuntz and wife were born, reared and married in Germany, and came to the United States about 1850. They first lived at Scranton, Pennsylvania, and later came to West Leipsic, where they engaged in the saw-mill business. Later, Mr. Kuntz came to Leipsic and took a half interest, with Mr. Foltz, in the grist-mill, at the south end of Leipsic. He sold out his interest there, in the early seventies, and bought a farm at the south edge of the town, living there until July, 1914. He died on February 6, 1915. Christian Kuntz was eighty-nine years old and his widow registers an even four score and ten. They had been married nearly sixty years.

Louis W. Kuntz grew up at Leipsic, and, while a young man, worked in a dry goods store until about twenty years old. He then went into business for himself. He and William Cole were in the grocery business together,

but three years later they dissolved the business, when Louis W. and his brother went into a partnership, which lasted for about fifteen years. After that, Louis W. Kuntz continued in business until his death. At the time he and Mr. Cole were together they also operated a warehouse.

Louis W. Kuntz was married, in 1882, to Emma Wineland. She was born at Van Buren, Hancock county, Ohio, the daughter of George and Isabel (Morehead) Wineland. George Wineland was a native of Pennsylvania. Isabel Morehead was born on a farm in Hancock county, near Findlay. George Wineland and his brother conducted a saw-mill until he went to war. He served in the Civil War, as a soldier, dying in the service, of typhoid fever. At the time of his death he was still a young man. He left a widow and two daughters, of whom Mrs. Louis W. Kuntz was only about a year old at the time of her father's death. The mother later married Joseph Mitchell and lived in Mocomb. She afterward moved to Ottawa. The mother died in 1908 and is buried in Leipsic.

Five children have been born to Louis W. Kuntz and wife, Charles Edward, Mary, Florence, Hazel and Dorothy.

Mr. Kuntz erected the business block in which the Kuntz store is located, about 1900. This is a substantial two-story brick building. Charles Edward Kuntz, his son, who now operates the store, was born July 25, 1883, in Leipsic, Putnam county. For ten years he was chief clerk in the office of the Nickel Plate railroad, at Leipsic Junction, and resigned that place to take charge of the store, at the time of his father's death. He was married, in August, 1905, to Bessie Sherrard. She was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, the daughter of Chester and Carrie (Maidlow) Sherrard. Chester Sherrard was born in Blanchard township and a sketch of his life is found elsewhere in this volume.

Louis W. Kuntz was a Republican. At various times he was nominated by his party for county treasurer and county clerk and served on the city council several terms, and also on the school board. He was a member of the school board at the time the new building was erected. Mr. Kuntz was a member of the Presbyterian church, a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He was master of finance in the Knights of Pythias for twenty-five years, holding this office until his death, and was also secretary of the Masonic lodge. He died on June 25, 1912. Mrs. Kuntz owns the store, left by her husband.

Charles Edward Kuntz, the present manager of the store, is a Republican and is now serving as treasurer of Van Buren township. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Charles E. Kuntz is a

highly educated woman, and very popular in her community. In fact, the whole Kuntz family are popular throughout the county, where they have occupied a prominent place for so many years.

WILLIAM D. STARLING.

An enterprising druggist, of Leipsic, Ohio, is William D. Starling, who has been located in this city since 1901. He started to work in a drug store while still a lad in school and has made this his life work. He not only has a practical knowledge gained from long experience behind the prescription counter, but also has a technical training, which comes from a good college course. As a result, he is a thoroughly competent and efficient pharmacist. He is now a partner in the drug firm of Starling & Buckley, at Leipsic, and has active charge of the store in this city.

William D. Starling, the son of Erastus B. and Alice (Hamilton) Starling, was born at Middle Point, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1881. His father was born near Oil City, Pennsylvania, in 1857, and is a son of Jonathan and Sarah Starling. His mother was born in Middle Point, Van Wert, Ohio, and is the daughter of John Hamilton and wife. His father is now engaged in the dairy business at Payne, Ohio.

William D. Starling was reared to manhood in Payne, Ohio, and while still in school began to work in a drug store. After leaving school he continued as a drug clerk, but feeling the need of technical training along pharmaceutical lines, became a student in the Northern Normal University at Ada, Ohio, where he took the course in pharmacy. After leaving college, he returned to Payne and remained there until 1901. In that year he came to Leipsic and took a position in the drug store of C. S. Buckley, and, in 1908, became a partner with Mr. Buckley. Mr. Starling now has active charge of the store in Leipsic, Mr. Buckley maintaining his residence at Findlay, Ohio. Their store is well stocked with a complete line of drugs and a varied assortment of druggists' sundries. He enjoys a well-deserved patronage in Leipsic and the surrounding community, and has one of the best and most attractively-arranged drug stores in the county.

Mr. Starling was married in June, 1904, to Mary Archer, who was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Wilson and Margaret (Trott) Archer. Her parents moved to this county while she was still a child and took charge of the Central house, at Leipsic, and they

continued in charge of this hotel until their death. Mr. Starling and his wife have two daughters, Helen and Maxine.

William D. Starling is an active Republican and takes an intelligent interest in political affairs. He is now serving his second term on the city council and always gives his support to such measures as he believes will be for the benefit of the city. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally, he is a Free and Accepted Mason and has attained to the Temple degree. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias.

HOWARD C. HUMMON.

A successful business man of Leipsic, Ohio, is Howard C. Hummon, who has spent his whole career of forty-five years in this county. Born and reared on the farm in Liberty township, he has been engaged in the implement business in Leipsic since 1898, and has built up a large business. He has been active in the councils of the Democratic party in his county, and has served with credit as county recorder for two terms. He is an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, deeply alive to the welfare of his community, and in all things stands as a high type of the good American citizen.

Howard C. Hummon, the son of Adam and Nora (Guthrie) Hummon, was born on November 30, 1870, in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Riley township, this county, in 1839, and was a son of John Hummon and wife, early settlers in Riley township. John Hummon was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent.

Adam Hummon was a life-long farmer and spent practically all his days in Liberty township. His wife, Nora Guthrie, was born in Monroe township, in this county, and died about 1884. Adam Hummon was at one time the nominee of the Democratic party for county treasurer, having previously served as treasurer of Liberty township. He died in 1902. Three children were born to Adam Hummon and wife: Truman F., deceased; Howard C., of Leipsic, and John E., of Denver, Colorado.

Howard C. Hummon was reared on his father's farm and received his elementary education in the schools of Liberty township. He then became a student in Crawfis College, and later taught school one term in Liberty township. He then engaged in farming, and, after his marriage in 1893, continued in agricultural pursuits for five years. Mr. Hummon sold his

farm of eighty acres in the spring of 1898 and engaged in the implement business at Leipsic, and now deals in all kinds of agricultural implements, buggies and automobiles. He has built up a wide acquaintance throughout the county. By treating all of his customers with uniform fairness and consideration, he has built up a large and lucrative trade. He tries to see that every one of his customers is satisfied, and by his uniform courtesy and honesty in all transactions, has succeeded to an admirable degree in building up his trade.

Mr. Hummon was married in 1893 to Clara C. Miller, who was a native of Blanchard township, and is a daughter of Joseph H. Miller and wife. Her father was born and reared on a farm in Blanchard township, where he spent all of his life. He was a director of the county infirmary for two terms, and died in November, 1913, his wife having passed away several years previously.

Mr. Hummon is a staunch Democrat and has always been active in the councils of his party. He was elected recorder of Putnam county in 1908, and took his office in September of the following year. His first term was so satisfactory that he was renominated and elected for a second term, holding the office until September, 1913. Since that time he has devoted all of his attention to his rapidly-increasing business in Leipsic. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, while he and his wife are both loyal members of the Lutheran church.

FRANK EDGAR CRITCHET.

The village of Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, has no more enterprising citizen than Frank Edgar Critchet, who has been engaged in business in that place for the past quarter of a century. His parents moved to this county in 1871, where he has lived since that time, having followed farming and public school teaching before engaging in a general mercantile business. In addition to his general store, he is also a funeral director, and has been engaged in the undertaking business at Belmore since 1900. He has been active in the life of the community and filled various official positions with credit to himself and satisfaction to his fellow citizens.

Frank E. Critchet, the son of Andrew Jackson and Mary Ann (Milburn) Critchet, was born in Licking county, Ohio, February 27, 1861. His father was a life long farmer and also operated a threshing outfit during

the summer seasons for a number of years. The family moved to Putnam county in 1871, and located in the southern part of Van Buren township, where Andrew J. Critchet bought a farm and lived most of the remainder of his life. He died at Belmore, March 7, 1911, at the age of eighty-seven. His wife had died in 1898. Andrew J. Critchet was a member of Company C, Seventy-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War, and served with distinction in that conflict.

Frank E. Critchet was ten years of age when his parents moved from Licking county, Ohio, to Putnam county, and consequently, received his elementary education in those counties. After finishing the common schools of Van Buren township, in Putnam county, he became a student at Crawfis College, and then engaged in public school teaching in Henry county, Ohio, for two years. Mr. Critchet started a grocery store in Belmore in 1890, and has been in business here since that time. He had only one hundred and fifty dollars when he started in the business, but by careful economy and good business judgment, has built up a large and lucrative trade in Belmore and the surrounding country. He now has a general mercantile establishment and handles a general line of goods, such as is found in stores of this kind. He graduated from the Champion College of Embalming at Springfield, Ohio, in 1900, and has been engaged in the embalming and undertaking business at Belmore since that year.

F. E. Critchet is the son of William H., and has charge of the switch-board and lines and is general manager of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company in Belmore.

Mr. Critchet was married on February 23, 1887, to Minnie Miley, a steamstress of Belmore, who was a native of Hocking county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Lefler) Miley. Her parents moved to Putnam county in 1863, and located two miles south of Belmore, where the parents lived until late in life. They spent their declining years in Belmore. Mrs. Critchet's father was trustee for a number of years. He died in March, 1908, and his wife died in October, 1902. Mr. Critchet and his wife have one son, William H.

Mr. Critchet has always supported the Democratic ticket, and for many years has been one of his party's leaders in this county. He served two terms as township assessor and was mayor of Belmore for one term. He helped to organize the annual reunion of former residents of Licking, and has been president of the society for the entire nine years it has existed. These reunions are held annually in Putnam county, and the 1914 meeting

was held on September 10, in a grove one and one-half miles south of Belmore. Mr. Critchet is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where he and his wife both belong to the Daughters of Rebekah. He has a number of interesting old relics, including an ancient lantern, an old flint-lock muzzle-loading pistol, and old-style grease lamp, and a Bible that was printed in Edinburgh in 1782. Mrs. Critchet has been a dress-maker at Belmore for the past twenty-five years. They are most estimable people and are highly esteemed in the community where they have lived so many years.

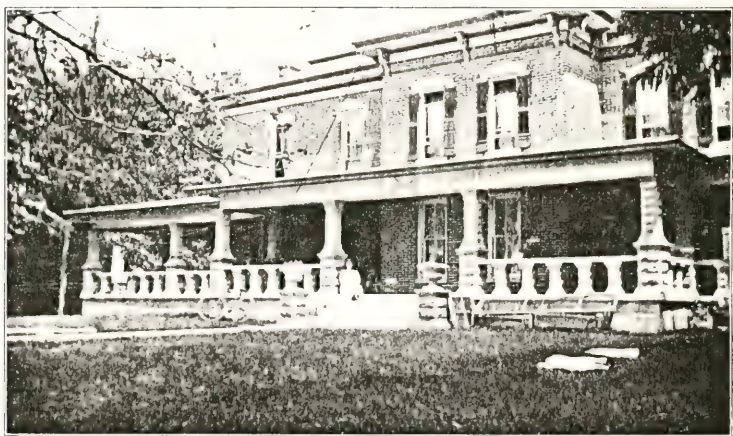
WILLIAM MARTIN RISSER.

Clearly-defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in obtaining a large measure of success. In tracing the career of one who has attained tangible results as the consequence of his own efforts, there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, that there is found an incentive to inspiration and, at the same time, there is inward a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made William Martin Risser one of the prominent and successful farmers of Putnam county, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens; for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination, and honorable, straightforward business relations. William Martin Risser is the largest individual cattle feeder in Putnam county and is also a feeder of more hogs every year than any other farmer residing in this county, a distinction of no small consequence in a county that is reputed for its many splendid farms and extensive farmers.

Mr. Risser is well equipped for raising great numbers of cattle and hogs. His main barn is eighty by one hundred and thirty feet, and fifty feet high. His horse stables, feeding room, and cow stables are forty-four by eighty feet; and the cattle feeding space covers an area of eighty-six by eighty feet. All of this is under one roof, to which has been added an adjoining shed, one hundred and thirty by eight feet. This barn was built in 1913, at a cost of approximately eight thousand dollars. Here is to be found room for twenty head of horses, and five milch cows, besides one hundred head of cattle. Mr. Risser also has about thirty-five head of hogs in this barn, and can accommodate a hundred and fifty more. The feed is stored in the upper story, from which it is dropped through five openings to



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. RISSEK.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM M. RISSEK.

feed boxes on the ground floor. Around each of these boxes twenty head of cattle can feed. The second barn is one hundred and six by seventy-four feet, and is used exclusively for cattle and hogs. In this barn Mr. Risser can accommodate a hundred head of cattle, and one hundred and fifty head of hogs. William Martin Risser also lives in a large and comfortable residence, consisting of eighteen rooms, and which is equipped with two baths. It has a laundry and a pipe-water plant moved by the pressure system; also a cistern, which holds three hundred and fifty barrels of water. The house is heated by hot water from basement to attic. Mr. Risser's successful operation as a farm manager, and his success during the past twenty years, has been little short of remarkable.

Mr. Risser was born on March 29, 1871, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of David and Margaret (Krohn) Risser. David Risser was born at Derkheim, Bavaria, Germany, April 5, 1840, and is the son of Abraham and Catherine (Vonvennig) Risser. Mr. Risser's mother, who was Margaret Krohn, before her marriage, is the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn, and was born in Butler county, January 5, 1844. At the age of three months she was brought by her parents to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

When a young man, William Martin Risser attended the Kiene district school until he was eighteen years old. He averaged about eight weeks in school each winter, and during the remainder of the time he worked on the farm with his father. Subsequently, he attended the Pandora high school under the tutelage of his brother, George, who was principal of this school. The first year he was in school for seventy days, and the second year he was in school for seventy-two days. Following his work in the Pandora high school, he took a ten-weeks business course at the Ohio Northern University at Ada. On completing this course, he had arrived at the age of twenty-one. Prior to this time, with the exception of the short period he was in school, he had been the mainstay of his father in the management and work on the large farm.

After returning from Ada, he worked for his father for two years without compensation, and then went into partnership with him for the ensuing sixteen years. The first eight years his share of the net profits was ten per cent., and the balance of the sixteen years his share was twenty-per cent.

He rented two hundred and forty-three acres from his father in 1905, upon which he is now engaged in farming for himself under the arrange-

ment made at that time. Mr. Risser attributes his success, as a farmer and stock raiser, to the instruction he has received in the school of hard work, under the expert guidance of his father.

William Martin Risser was married at the age of twenty-four, on November 27, 1895, to Elizabeth Lemley, the daughter of Jacob L. and Sarah Jane (Layton) Lemley. Mrs. Risser was born on August 31, 1875, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father was a native of Morgantown, West Virginia, born on July 10, 1837, and a son of Asa and Elizabeth (Evans) Lemley, both of whom were natives of western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Risser's mother was born on July 10, 1838, close to Morgantown, West Virginia. She is the daughter of Peter A. and Catherine (Liming) Layton, who were natives of West Virginia. Mrs. Risser was one of six children born to her parents. The others were Alice M., Charles, Mary, Katie and Sarah S. Her father and mother came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1871. They had been married ten years previously, on February 7, 1861.

Mrs. Risser received her education in the common schools of Pandora, and lived with her parents one-half mile north of the town, until she was married.

William Martin Risser is not only the largest individual cattle feeder in Putnam county, but he is, likewise, the largest feeder of hogs. He is considered one of the most progressive farmers in the county and his success has been little short of phenomenal.

Mr. and Mrs. Risser have been the parents of five children. Margaret Jane was born on December 2, 1896. Irene Beatrice was born September 5, 1897. Phyllis Francesca was born on August 24, 1899. David Lemley was born on January 4, 1901. Lillian Elizabeth was born on April 27, 1905.

Mr. Risser is a Democrat. He is now serving his second term as trustee and also his second term as a member of the school board. Both of these offices were conferred upon him with solicitation on his part, which is no small tribute to his career as a citizen, and is evidence of the great esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens. Mr. Risser is now the secretary and is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Banking Company, of Pandora, and gives to this business a share of his personal attention. William Martin Risser is a man who is highly respected by his fellow citizens and is honored for his industry, good business management and square dealing.

HENRY MOENING.

Every nation on the earth has contributed its quota to the population of the United States, but no nation has furnished better citizens for our country than has Germany. Thousands of its best citizens have come to this country and become valuable members of the various communities in which they have settled. Putnam county, Ohio, has attracted many of these citizens and hundreds of their descendants are now living within its borders.

Henry Moening, the son of John Henry and Mary (Recker) Moening, was born on January 1, 1838, on a farm about one and one-half miles south of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on section 33. His parents were both born in Germany, his father being born in Ausnabruk, and his mother in the same locality.

John Henry Moening was reared in Germany and came to America in the early thirties and located at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he worked for a year on the Wabash and Erie Canal. His wife, Mary Recker, and her two brothers came across the ocean at the same time, when she cooked for the workmen on the canal. One of her brothers, Louis, lived near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and at her brother's home, she and Mr. Moening were married. After their marriage, they moved to the farm where Henry Moening was born, and there John H. Moening and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They started with a little farm of forty acres, principally covered with forest trees, and by hard work and good management, they have accumulated a farm of three hundred acres.

Henry Moening had a brother, Herman, and a sister, Mary, both of whom are deceased. He was reared on the farm where he was born and lived on this farm continuously for seventy-six years. Being the only child, he inherited his father's farm and made it his home until the fall of 1914, when he retired and moved into Glandorf, where he is now living. He has sold his farm in order that he might not have the burden of caring for it and having it on his hands during his declining years.

Henry Moening was married, in 1859, to Elizabeth Ellerbrock. She was born at Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and when six months of age, came with her parents, Theodore and Katherine (Kracht) Ellerbrock, to this county, the family arriving here in 1836. The Ellerbrock family are responsible for the name of the village, Glandorf, in this county, that being their native town in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Moening have reared a family of seven children, John,

who married Elizabeth Uphaus and has nine children; Herman, of Putnam county, who married Elizabeth Brockman and has four children living and one deceased; Barney, of Ottawa, who married Theresa Hueve and has five children; Henry, who died at the age of twenty-two; Theodore, who married Matilda Brockman and left five children at his death, April 6, 1914; William, who died at the age of eighteen; Mary, who lives in Glandorf with her father. The mother of these children died on September 16, 1907, at the age of seventy-two.

Five of Mr. Moening's children are married and have families of their own. Here are presented the grandchildren of Mr. Moening: The children of John: Elizabeth, Caroline, Clara, Lucy, Gertrude, John, Frances, Lawrence and Agnes. The children of Herman: Herman, Romanus, Sylvester, Laura and Catherine, deceased. The children of Barney: Veronica, Harry, Joseph, Alfred, Leo and Philomina, who died in infancy. The children of Theodore: Lavina, Adeline, Amanda, Clarence and Hilarius.

Mr. Moening and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church and deeply interested in its welfare and generous contributors to its maintenance. He is a Democrat and, while interested in everything which pertains to good government, has never taken an active part in political affairs. Mr. Moening is one of the grand old pioneers of the county and has always lived a clean and wholesome life, and richly merits the high esteem in which he is held by everyone who knows him.

ORREN EUGENE TOWNSEND.

The character of a community is determined, in a large measure, by the lives of a comparatively few of its members. If its moral and intellectual status is good; if, in a social way, it is a pleasant place to reside; if its reputation, as to the integrity of its citizens, has extended to another locality, it will be found that the standards set by the leading business men have been high, and their influence tends to mold the character and shape the lives of those with whom they mingle. In placing the late Orren Eugene Townsend in the front ranks of such men, justice is rendered to a man, universally recognized throughout the locality, long honored by his citizenship as one who stood for all good things. Although a quiet and unassuming man, with no ambition for public position or leadership, he contributed much to the civic and moral advancement of his community. The admirable qualities of head and heart and the straightforward, upright course of his daily life, won

for him the esteem and confidence of the circle in which he moved. Although he is now sleeping the sleep of the just, his influence still lives and his memory is revered, not alone by his widow and children, but by the circle of men and women who knew him and who loved him for his true worth.

Orren Eugene Townsend was born on January 8, 1859, at Bluffton, Ohio. He was the son of Ira M. and Catherine M. (Thompson) Townsend.

Orren Eugene Townsend grew up at Bluffton, attending the public schools of that place and the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, where he obtained a splendid education. After leaving college, Mr. Townsend engaged in the lumber business in Bluffton, and, with his brother and father, conducted a saw-mill until 1887. He then moved to Leipsic, Putnam county, in 1887, and operated a planing-mill at that place until two years before his death, first, with his father, and later, in partnership with John Zahrend and a Mr. Kober. These men did business under the firm name of Leipsic Lumber Company. Mr. Townsend moved to Irvine, Kentucky, in the spring of 1899, where his company had opened a saw-mill along the Kentucky river. Here they were able to get their lumber from the source of supply and to eliminate the middle man. Mr. Townsend died there on May 10, 1901.

Mr. Townsend was a public-spirited citizen and, throughout his life was one of the foremost citizens in the improvement of Leipsic. He was progressive in his work and built one of the handsomest homes in Leipsic. Through his efforts were due the erection of many excellent business buildings, among them the Townsend block, one of the best in the city. He was a faithful husband, a kind father, an obliging neighbor, and a zealous Christian, in the practical sense of the word. Mr. Townsend was a devout member of the Methodist church and, throughout his life, was active in the church and Sunday school.

At his death he was survived by a widow and three children, Leila, Harry and Grace, all of whom live at home with Mrs. Townsend. Harry has a large garage and is in the automobile business.

Mrs. Townsend, before her marriage, was Jennie E. Hall. She married Mr. Townsend, December 16, 1879. She was born at Gilboa, in this county and is the daughter of John F. and Nancy J. (Hoagland) Hall.

John F. Hall was born, at Gilboa, and was the son of Samuel, who was a prominent pioneer citizen of Putnam county. He came to Blanchard township in 1832, from Jackson township, Muskingum county, and was the second settler in that township. The county was then a wilderness, but here he and the Hickerson family, who came with him, lived a week in one cabin till each could raise a small cabin for their respective families. Indians

passed every day and night and sometimes came to the cabin in large crowds to trade. All had to be fed liberally when they came, and some of them would drink seven or eight cups of tea or coffee. This story is told, however, in the historical section of this volume. The first sermon preached in this county was preached in Samuel Hall's cabin, two years after the Halls moved here. Samuel Hall's wife was Martha Wamsley, the daughter of John and Mary (Robinson) Wamsley. Mary Robinson was the daughter of William Robinson, who, at the time of the Indian war, was taken prisoner by Chief Logan and his men and brought to Ohio, where he was kept a prisoner for four months. He moved his family in 1800, including his wife and ten children, all of whom were married and had children of their own, to a place where he had been imprisoned. The family moved at once from Clarksburg, Harrison county, Virginia, upon pack horses, entered a large tract of land on the Muskingum river. Samuel Hall was born in Morgantown, Virginia, in 1803, and at the age of three years, he and his parents came to Licking county, where he was married on April 14, 1824. In the fall of 1831 he selected a farm site in the wilderness, in Blanchard township, comprising one hundred and seventy-five acres. He moved here in the spring of 1832, and in nearly every direction there were no neighbors for twenty miles. His son, John F. Hall, married Nancy Hoagland on May 15, 1857. He died on November 11, 1862, leaving three daughters, Mrs. H. L. Hunter, Mrs. O. E. Townsend and Mrs. John Zahrend. After Mr. Hall's death, his widow married H. J. Call and spent her last years in Bluffton. She was a faithful and conscientious member of the Methodist church and active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Reverting to Orren E. Townsend's history, it may be said that his father, Ira M. Townsend, was born on November 19, 1833, in Franklin county, New York and died at Bluffton, Ohio, in January 11, 1911, at the age of seventy-seven. Ira M. Townsend came from an old colonial family of English Puritan stock. His father, Appleton Townsend, was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, who married Roxie Fields, of Franklin county, New York.

When Ira M. Townsend was eight years old he was brought by his parents to Ohio and learned the saddler's trade, in Knox and Hardin counties. He worked at his trade in Bluffton twelve years and located there, in 1852. He was married at Jamestown, New York, October 29, 1852, to Catherine Thompson, a native of New York. He engaged in the milling business in partnership with E. N. Woodford, in 1853, but for one year, however, Mr. Townsend was not actively engaged in business. During the years 1865 and 1866 he engaged in the milling business, in Michigan, and,

after his return to Bluffton, entered the saw-mill business again. This time his mill was blown up by a boiler explosion and after it was rebuilt, fire destroyed it in 1887. He rebuilt it a second time, in 1896, but again it was destroyed by fire. His determination was invincible, and he rebuilt again. He conducted the mill until 1904 and then sold out to the Bluffton Turned Goods Company and continued with this firm, as president of the company, until his death. At the time of his death, Mr. Townsend was the oldest member of his lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was a member of the Methodist church from his youth and was always an upright, sincere, Christian man, liberal in his donations and ever willing to help his church and other denominations as well. He was very widely known and a man of sterling character and the qualities of heart which won for him the deep respect and friendship of all with whom he came in contact.

Born of such a father, it is not to be wondered that the late Orren Eugene Townsend was a man known and respected among men. Many of his good traits he inherited from his father, but in preserving these traits he deserves credit for being the worthy son of a good father.

WALTER S. STEVENSON.

One of the younger lawyers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Walter S. Stevenson, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession in this county at Leipsic since 1907. Graduating from the law school in 1904 he was admitted to the bar in the same year and practiced at North Baltimore until he came to Leipsic in April, 1907, to become a member of the law firm of Rower & Stevenson. This firm also deals in insurance, real estate, loans and bonds.

Walter S. Stevenson, the son of Isaiah B. and Mary (Epler) Stevenson, was born in Henry county, Ohio, May 2, 1882. His father was born in Henry county, Ohio, in 1854, and was a son of Enoch G. and Anna (Rader) Stevenson. Enoch G. Stevenson was born in Franklin county, Ohio, south of Columbus, in 1820, and during his youth lived near Columbus Grove in Putnam county, but was married in Henry county. The grandfather of Enoch G. Stevenson came from England where he still remembers seeing his grandfather's uniform and sword. Family tradition says that this grandfather was a colonel in the British army, but was discharged from the service by Lord Howe, because he refused to fight the American colonists.

Isaiah B. Stevenson spent all but the last few years of his life in

Henry county, Ohio on a farm. During twenty-two winters he taught school in that county and thousands of children came under his instructions during that long period. His wife, Mary Epler, was born in Shelby county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Peter and Rachel (Ward) Epler. Peter Epler was native of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, and Rachel Ward was from New Jersey. Her grandfather was in the American Revolution.

Walter S. Stevenson was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Henry county. After finishing the common and high school courses of his county, he became a student in Defiance College, remaining there for one year, when he went to Ada, Ohio, where he spent four years, completing the scientific and law courses in that excellent institution. He received the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws degrees, completing his law course in the spring of 1904. In the same spring he was admitted to the practice of law, and hung out his shingle at North Baltimore, Ohio. Here he remained until 1907, when he came to Leipsic to make his permanent home.

Mr. Stevenson was married on April 4, 1905, to Hattie Jaqua, who was born and reared in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a daughter of W. Alfred and Elizabeth (Wilkinson) Jaqua. Her parents have lived near Hamler, Henry county, for a number of years. Her father is a farmer, and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Stevenson and his wife have three sons, H. Clinton, William A. and Walter K.

Mr. Stevenson is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arch Masons. He is a young man of great energy and ability, and although he has been in this city but a comparatively short time, yet he has already forged to the front at the local bar, and the success which has attended his efforts thus far promises a bright future for him.

GEORGE HENRY BACH.

All of the German citizens, who have made Putnam county their home, have been unusually successful in whatever line of activity they have chosen to engage. George Henry Bach, one of the many farmers of this county who was born in Germany, has accumulated a farm of one hundred and thirty-eight acres in Riley township through his own hard work and good management. While he has been accumulating a comfortable competence for himself and family, he has also taken an active part in the civic



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. BACH

life of the community and has held various official positions, with honor to himself and credit to his fellow citizens.

George Henry Bach, the son of John George and Catherine (Becker) Bach, was born on January 1, 1850, in Bavaria, Germany. His father, who was a son of John Thomas Bach and wife, was born in Bavaria on February 7, 1821, and came to America in January, 1851.

John George Bach was married in Germany and three of his children, including George Henry, were born in the Fatherland. He first settled in New Jersey, and two years later moved with his family to Hancock county, where he located in Arcadia. There he leased a few acres of land, which he cleared for the rental. He later rented a couple of farms and, after about eight years, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he arrived on April 10, 1861. He bought forty acres of farm land, which he cleared, and later added eighty acres more. John Thomas Bach and wife only lived in Ohio about two or three years, and then returned to New Jersey, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Catherine Bach, the wife of John George, died on July 4, 1868, she and her husband having reared a family of eight children, Jacob, Mary, George Henry, Thomas, William, Edward, Eva and Daniel H. Jacob died at the age of ten and Edward died at the age of seven. John George Bach was married the second time to Fredericka Mollenhauer, in 1872, a daughter of Philip Mollenhauer, and to this second union was born one son, Ludwig Berhard.

George Henry Bach was only one year of age when his parents came from Germany to this country. He received his early education in Hancock and Putnam counties, and from his earliest boyhood worked on his father's farm. He remained at his home until he was twenty years of age and then worked for two years in his home neighborhood. He next went to Cleveland and worked for three years in a dairy. He followed this with eight years' work in Iowa. In that state he worked out for four years, and then, with his brother, bought one hundred and thirty-four acres, which he farmed for four years. He then disposed of his interests in the Iowa farm and returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he bought fifty-five acres near the old home farm. To this he later added thirty-eight acres adjoining, as well as forty-five acres near the village of Townwood. Mr. Bach has been a very successful farmer, has given particular attention to live stock raising, and has a fine herd of Shorthorn and Polled-Durham cattle. This farm is well improved, and under his skillful management, is yielding satisfactory returns, year after year.

Mr. Bach was married on October 16, 1883, to Sarah Catherine Smith, a daughter of Henry and Albertina (Tegler) Smith. She was born near Fostoria, Hancock county, Ohio, October 16, 1856. Her parents were born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and came to America, about 1854, locating immediately in Hancock county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Her father died there, October 4, 1897, at the age of seventy-four years, and her mother passed away, on January 15, 1896, at the age of sixty-seven years and four months. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were the parents of seven children, Sarah Catherine, William Frederick, George Henry, Sophia Louisa, John Wilson, Mary Cordelia, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Bach and his wife are the parents of four children, Cordelia Elvira, Tena Alberta, Viola and Katie L. Tena Alberta, who died on January 16, 1912, left her husband, John W. Miller, with one daughter, Florence Edna. The other three children are single and still living with their parents.

Mr. Bach and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church. He has served as trustee of his denomination and is now an elder in the church. He has given his support to the Democratic party and has served on the school board of his township. Mr. Bach is a man of excellent character and is highly esteemed throughout the community where he has made his home for so many years.

JOSEPH NIENBERG.

Since 1858, Joseph Nienberg has been a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, and has spent his whole career, in Glandorf, since locating in the county. He learned the tinner's trade when a young man and followed that vocation until he was about thirty-five years of age. Later he engaged in the hardware business, and as he prospered from year to year, added various other departments to his store, until he now has three separate stores in Glandorf. An interesting feature of the success of Mr. Nienberg is the fact that seven of his eight children are partners in the business.

Joseph Nienberg, the son of B. H. and Angela (Sprehe) Herkinhoff-Nienberg, was born in Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, in 1843. His father was born in Hanover, Germany, and was probably about twenty years of age when he came to America, and located at Minster, in Auglaize county, Ohio.

B. H. Nienberg started in as a farm hand after locating in Auglaize

county, and, after his marriage, engaged in the mercantile business in connection with which he ran a bakery. He was in business in Minster, Ohio, until his death. The wife of B. H. Nienberg was born in Ausnabruk, Germany, and was married in her native land to H. Herkinoff, and came with him to America and located at Minster, where he died, leaving her with two sons, Herman and Frank. To her second marriage, to Mr. Nienberg, were born six children, Mary, Joseph, William, Annie, Agnes and Dine.

Joseph Nienberg was reared, until he was fifteen years of age, in Minster, and there received a good common school education. He came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858 and made his home with his aunt, Mrs. Henry Wedaking. After coming to Glandorf he learned the tinner's trade, and followed it for many years. He went into the tinner business for himself about 1861, to which he added a stock of stoves. He started a dry goods store about 1870, and has operated it ever since. He and Joseph Thome, his brother-in-law, started a hardware store in 1894, which they continued in partnership until 1898, when Mr. Thome died. Mr. Nienberg then continued the business alone until 1909, when he took several of his children into partnership with him. He added a furniture store in 1910, so that the family now have three separate stores in Glandorf, a hardware store, a dry goods and general merchandise establishment, and a furniture store. These stores do a big business in Glandorf, and the surrounding community, and it is safe to say that Mr. Nienberg does more business than any other man in the village. Joseph Nienberg has been twice married. He was first married, in 1866, to Annie C. Kemper, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of B. H. Kemper and wife. Mr. Kemper was a native of Germany and located in Glandorf about a year after the village was established. He first took a contract to build a part of the old Ohio canal, and after that operated a store in Glandorf and farmed. The first wife of Mr. Nienberg died about fifteen years after her marriage, leaving no children.

Mr. Nienberg married Veronica Thome in 1881. She was a native of Glandorf and is a daughter of Nicholas and Agatha (Bockhold) Thome, early settlers in Glandorf. Her father was a wagonmaker and, in the early days, made cradles for cradling wheat. Mr. and Mrs. Thome spent the remainder of their lives in Glandorf. To the second marriage of Mr. Nienberg have been born seven sons and one daughter, Benjamin A., who married Julia Borman, and has four sons, Carl, Harold, Paul and John; Harry, who first married Frances Smith, and after her death, Dalia Rampe, who is the mother of one son, Walter; Joseph E., who married Maggie Unverferth, and has one daughter, Frances; Edward, who married Clara Geier, and has

two sons, George and Raymond, and four children who are single, Oscar, Mary, Frank and William. The last two boys are twins. All of the children are now partners with their father in business, except Edward, who runs the home farm of eighty-three acres, near Glandorf.

The Nienberg family are all loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, and are interested in its welfare and are generous contributors to its support.

AUGUST NARTKER.

For more than two score years, August Nartker has been identified with the history of Putnam county, Ohio, and since 1900, has been in the tile business in Glandorf. His father was a native of Germany and an early settler of Putnam county, Ohio, where he came with his parents in the early history of the county. Mr. Nartker spent his early manhood in a newspaper office, and also farmed a few years before engaging in his present business.

August Nartker, the son of Henry and Thresia (Vorderlandwehr) Nartker, was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, April 8, 1874. His parents reared a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, Henry, Mrs. Bernardine Winkelman, Mrs. Mary Wishmeyer, of Michigan; Mrs. Anna Schroeder, Frank, August, William (deceased in 1912), Mrs. Minnie Horstman (deceased), Mrs. Emma Maas and Mrs. Lena Fortman.

Henry Nartker was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany in 1837 and came to America in his boyhood days with his parents, Theodore Nartker and wife, who located about one and one-half miles west of Glandorf, where he lived the remainder of his life. Thresia Vorderlandwehr, the mother of August Nartker, was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, June 14, 1844, a daughter of Herman and Thresia Vorderlandwehr, who were born, reared and married in Germany, and were early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. Henry Nartker farmed just west of Glandorf, in this county, all of his life, his death occurring there on March 28, 1909. His widow is still living on the farm at Glandorf, where she has resided ever since her marriage.

August Nartker grew up on his father's farm and at the age of sixteen, began working in newspaper offices. He worked on *Der Demokrat*, at Ottawa, from 1890 to 1896. The next four years were spent on the home farm and in 1900, after his marriage, he went into partnership with

his brother-in-law, W. F. Schroeder, and bought the tile factory of Winkelman & Ellis, at Glandorf, where they have continued this business down to the present time, and have built up a large trade throughout the county. For about ten years they made brick as well as tile, but now are devoting all of their time and attention to the manufacture of tile.

Mr. Nartker was married on October 9, 1900, to Verona Horstman, who was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Deeters) Horstman. To this union have been born two children, Mary and Alphonse.

Joseph Horstman, the father of Mrs. Nartker, was born in Glandorf, Germany, and when a young man came to America and located in Cincinnati. He came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1872, and married Mary Deeters, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, her father being one of the earliest settlers. Mr. Horstman was a blacksmith at Glandorf, and operated his shop until about seven years ago, when he retired from active life and now lives with his son-in-law, Mr. Nartker.

Mr. Nartker is a Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in the life of his community in every way. He has been a councilman of Glandorf for the past eight years, and has always given his hearty support to every measure which he felt would be of benefit to his village. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, and also hold membership in the St. Paul's and St. John's aid societies.

JOHN E. REINMAN.

John E. Reinman is a plain, honest man of affairs who, by correct methods and a strict regard for square dealing, has made his influence felt in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He has won for himself a distinctive prestige in the business circles of this city. Mr. Reinman would be the last man to become the subject of fancy eulogy but, nevertheless, his life presents much that is interesting and valuable and may be studied with profit by the young men of the rising generation. Mr. Reinman is one of those, whose integrity and strength of character stand out as shining examples for young men at the beginning of their careers. He commands the respect of his contemporaries and people know him as one who can be thoroughly depended upon to do just what he promises.

John E. Reinman was born on July 17, 1862, at Tiffin, Ohio, and is the son of Lawrence and Caroline (Youngblood) Reinman. Lawrence Reinman was born in Bavaria and came to America when about twenty-

one years old. He located at Tiffin, and there learned the carpenter's trade, and followed it until 1873 when he moved to New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He then bought a farm just east of New Cleveland and here he lived for about twenty years. At the end of this period he moved to the home of his son, John E., who was then living west of New Cleveland. There he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. He died on January 17, 1910, at the age of eighty-two. Previous to his death his wife died about 1905. Caroline Youngblood was born in Prussia and came to America when eighteen or twenty years old, locating at Tiffin, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Reinman were the parents of seven children, Catherine, deceased; Lawrence, of Tiffin, Ohio; Joseph, of New Cleveland; John E., of Ottawa; Mary, the wife of Henry Koch, of New Cleveland; Rose, deceased, and Anna, the wife of John Wischmeyer, of Bryan, Ohio.

John E. Reinman lived at home until he grew up and married. When a young man he learned the carpenter trade with his father, but early in his life began farming. He purchased a farm of seventy acres just west of New Cleveland and lived there until October, 1913, when he purchased a lot and built a residence in Ottawa. Here he has resided since that time. He still owns his farm, however, but now engages in carpentry and building.

Mr. Reinman was married to Rose Kihm in 1888, who was born in Blanchard township and who is the daughter of John and Rose (Lawrence) Kihm. Mrs. Reinman's father was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1838, and came to America at the age of eight years with his parents, John Peter and Mary Kihm. They settled at New Washington, Ohio, and came to Putnam county about 1856. They were pioneer settlers in Blanchard township and John Kihm was a farmer all of his life. He died on the farm in Blanchard township in 1898. Mr. Kihm's wife, Rose Lawrence, was born at Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, and was the daughter of John and Mary Lawrence. She lived in Huron county until her marriage and is now living at Leipsic, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinman are the parents of two children, Edward J. and Ida Rose. Edward J. married Ida Weot, of Tiffin, Ohio, and lives on his father's farm near New Cleveland and has one boy, Ralph John. Ida Rose is still at home.

For the past seven years, Mr. Reinman has been trustee of Ottawa township. He was a director on the school board for fifteen years. Mr. Reinman is an ardent Democrat and never misses an election. He is one of the best workers for the principles of the Democratic party and the suc-

cess of its candidates to be found in all Putnam county. Mr. Reinman is a natural born reader of men, and his influence is keenly felt in Ottawa township where he now lives.

The Reinman family are all members of the Catholic church and devout in the faith. As a carpenter and builder, Mr. Reinman is well known and enjoys the confidence of all with whom he has ever had any business dealings.

JOHN W. WINKLER.

The whole career of John W. Winkler has been spent in Leipsic, where he was born a half century ago. His father dying when he was about twelve years of age he was thrown upon his own resources, and early in life he began an independent career for himself. When he was twenty-six years of age he started in business in Leipsic and for nearly a quarter of a century has been engaged in the shoe business in that place.

John W. Winkler, the son of John and Mary (Stritt) Winkler, was born in 1805, at West Leipsic, Ohio. John Winkler, Sr., was born in 1839, in Buerstadt, in Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America when about fifteen years of age with his brothers and located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. As a youth he had learned the shoemaker's trade in his native land and on reaching his maturity in this county he continued in that business, to which he added a general store. At the opening of the Civil War John Winkler, Sr., enlisted in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was seriously wounded at the battle of Stone River. He lived nearly twelve years after the war closed with a minnie ball in his left lung. The bullet lay next to his heart and affected it in such a way that his death ultimately resulted in 1876. It was found out after his death that the lung was rotted away from the effects of the ball and his son, John W., now has the minnie ball as a relic.

John Winkler, Sr., was married in this county to Mary Stritt, a daughter of Benjamin and Maria Stritt. The Stritt family came from Germany, probably before 1850, and settled on a farm south of Ottawa, where Oliver Weaver is now living. There the Stritt family spent the remainder of their days. The first wife of John Winkler, Sr., died when the son, John W., was about four years of age, leaving her husband with three children, John W., Mrs. Mary Pettit, and one who died in infancy, the mother dying at the time the third child was born. After the death of his first wife, John Winkler, Sr., married Louisa Stritt, a sister of his first wife, and to this second

marriage three children were born, Charles A., Louis F., and Mrs. Celia Ward.

John W. Winkler was about thirteen years of age when his father died, and the boy soon began to shift for himself. He started in the shoe business in Leipsic about 1891, and has gradually built up his store and increased his trade in the city and surrounding community. He now carries a large and well-selected stock of boots and shoes, and such sundries as are usually found in shoe stores. He is a man of excellent business judgment and is now numbered among the prosperous business men of Leipsic.

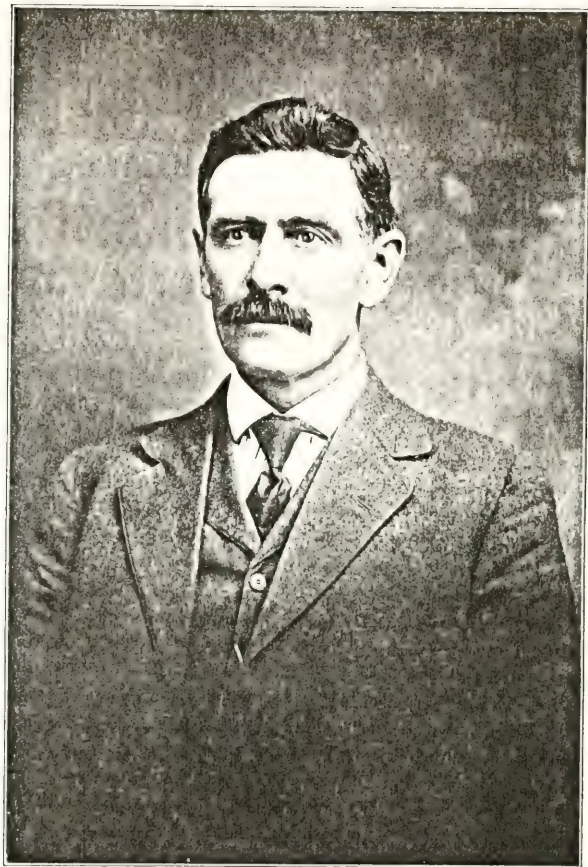
John W. Winkler was married on February 14, 1893, to Josephine B. Phipps, who was born near Monroeville, Allen county, Indiana, and is a daughter of William L. and Hannah (Leonard) Phipps. Her father was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and her mother in Ross county, Ohio. Her father was a stove factory man and came to Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, with a Mr. Williamson, about 1871, before the village of Belmore was in existence. Mr. Williamson started a stove factory in that place and Mr. Phipps became the foreman and lived at Belmore the remainder of his life. Mrs. Phipps is now living in Leipsic.

Mr. Winkler is a loyal member of the Catholic church, and a generous contributor to its support. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He gives his support to the Democratic party, but has never taken an active part in its councils. He is a man interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of his community, and his support for all public welfare measures is always heartily given.

DAVID C. SHANK.

The standing of any community depends, to a great extent, upon the character of the business men who are a part of it. If a community is so fortunate as to entertain keen and progressive business men, of high integrity, who are thoroughly alive to every opportunity for legitimate business, that community is, inevitably, one of prosperity. In this respect, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is fortunate in numbering among its citizens many men of the most up-to-date type, among whom is the subject of this sketch, David C. Shank, president of the D. C. Shank Company, which operates a saw-mill, planing-mill, lumber yard and electric light plant, and who occupies a high place among the foremost citizens of his community.

David C. Shank was born, in Allen county, Ohio, December 8, 1869.



DAVID C. SHANK.

a son of John and Nancy (Culp) Shank. John Shank was born in Mahoning county, formerly Columbiana county, Ohio, December 14, 1836, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Bear) Shank. Henry Shank was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, October 17, 1808, a son of John Shank and wife, whose maiden name was Wenger. It is said that John Shank once stated that his great-grandfather came from Germany and that the family name was originally Schenk.

John Shank, the subject's great-grandfather, came from Virginia to Ohio, with his family, in 1835. His wife died about fourteen years previous to this time, or when Henry Shank was eleven years of age. John had married a second time, and it was his second wife who migrated to Ohio with him. At the same time there came the subject's grandfather, his brother, Michael, and two sisters, Barbara and Esther. One sister, Annie, had died in Virginia.

David C. Shank's great-grandfather, John, and his grandfather, Henry, were coopers, by trade, and they also owned and operated a farm while in Virginia. John Shank bought a farm in Mahoning county, where he lived until the time of his death, in about 1850.

In the spring of 1840, Henry Shank migrated from Mahoning county to Richland township, Putnam county, later Allen county, and entered one hundred and twenty acres of government land. The deed to the land was signed by President Martin Van Buren, and is yet in the possession of the subject's father, John Shank. The land remained in the possession of Henry Shank and his son, John, until 1913, when it was sold to David W. Basinger and Edward Laibe, the only transfer that had been made since the time the original entry was made.

Henry Shank cleared this virgin land, and built upon it a log cabin. From year to year he succeeded gradually in clearing more of the land, with the help of his father, John Shank, who rendered considerable assistance, as soon as he had reached the age when he could work in the woods. It is said that when a young man, John Shank could wield an axe to better advantage than any other man in the vicinity. Henry Shank lived on his homestead until October 24, 1905, when he died at the ripe old age of ninety-seven.

John Shank was three years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He grew to manhood on the home farm and had no chance to go to school until he was eleven years of age. At that time he managed to attend the district school, for a month or two each winter, for a few years. When he was thirty years of age, he married Nancy Culp, December 19, 1867.

a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Good) Culp, who was born on January 14, 1845.

Christian Culp, maternal grandfather of David C. Shank, was born in Virginia on March 20, 1815, and settled in Ohio in 1850. He located first in Fairfield county, but later moved to Allen county. Elizabeth Good was born on June 1, 1813, a daughter of Joseph and Magdalene Good. They were both natives of Virginia and came to Ohio in the early days of this county and settled in Fairfield county. Joseph Good died in Fairfield county on February 7, 1848; his wife then came to Allen county, where she lived until the time of her death, at the home of her daughter, Elizabeth (Good) Culp.

After his marriage, John Shank continued to operate his father's farm, and lived there until January 17, 1913, when the farm was sold. To Mr. and Mrs. John Shank were born seven children as follow: David C., the subject; Lizzie A., born on July 20, 1871, the wife of Amos Augsberger; Sophia F., born on October 15, 1873, now the wife of Rufus Basinger; Christian, born on May 14, 1875, who married Rachel Witmer; Emma J., born on August 24, 1877, the wife of Peter W. Amstutz, and who died on January 31, 1904; Mary E., born on June 30, 1879, who is unmarried; Nannie A., who was born on October 2, 1885, and who died May 6, 1893, at the age of seven years, two months and four days.

John Shank conducted the home farm, as a general farm, and also did an extensive business in cattle and hogs. He moved to Pandora, January 17, 1913, after having retired from farming, where he now lives. He and Mrs. Shank are both members of the Mennonite Zion church.

David C. Shank was born on the old homestead, which had been settled by his grandfather, and there grew to manhood. As a boy, he attended the district school, and worked on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age. He married Fannie Basinger, April 14, 1892, a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Gratz) Basinger. To this union were born three children, Cora, Eunice and Irma.

Mrs. Shank, wife of David C. Shank, died on February 28, 1901. She was a good Christian character, an affectionate wife, a loving mother, and was an active member of the Mennonite church.

Mr. Shank married again, November 15, 1903, his second wife being Mary Schumacher, who was born on July 24, 1880, a daughter of John and Barbara (Geiger) Schumacher, both of whom were of pioneer families and of Swiss origin. To this union have been born two children, Olive and Alice.

When he was twenty-one years of age, Mr. Shank entered upon an independent business career. His first venture was a saw-mill, in the timber land, a business which he has continued, practically, ever since. He is now president of the D. C. Shank Company, which conducts a saw-mill, planing-mill, lumber yard and electric light plant, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county. He is doing an extensive business and is one of the prominent figures in the business life of his community.

Mr. Shank is nominally a member of the Democratic party, but he has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters and is an independent voter, following the dictates of his own judgment, rather than party desires.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Shank are members of the Grace Mennonite church, and are active in church work. Mr. Shank is an energetic and progressive business man of unquestioned integrity, and is highly respected by all who have come in contact with him.

AUGUST STECHSCHULTE.

A native of this county and a resident here for more than half a century, August Stechschulte has been prominently identified with the history of Putnam county. Beginning the tailor's trade at the age of seventeen he has made it his life work, and for more than thirty years he has been engaged in the tailoring and clothing business in Leipsic. He has always taken a deep interest in the civic life of his community and has held several township and city offices, with universal satisfaction. He has the unique record of being appointed sergeant-at-arms of the General Assembly of Ohio when he was only twenty-two years of age and it is probable that he is the youngest man who has ever held this position in the state.

August Stechschulte, the son of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1825, and came to America in 1833 with his parents and located in Putnam county, in Ottawa township. He arrived in this county about two months after Professor Horstman had settled with his colony of emigrants from Germany.

Henry Stechschulte was about eight years of age when his parents came from Germany to this county, and consequently received part of his education in his native land. After completing his schooling in this county he remained at home until he was grown. He then went to Cincinnati and learned the cooper's trade, and in 1854 was married to Bertha Kahle, who

was born in Greensburg township, in this county, a daughter of I. H. Kahle, whose history elsewhere in this volume gives the main facts concerning the Kahle family. Mr. Kahle was one of the pioneers who came to this county with Professor Horstman in 1833, and walked with the party of emigrants from Detroit to this county and helped to found the village of Glandorf. After his marriage Henry Stechschulte spent the remainder of his life on a farm on the line between Ottawa and Greensburg townships. He died about 1908, his wife having passed away two years earlier. Henry Stechschulte and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1904, at which there were forty-five grandchildren present. Six sons and two daughters were born to Henry Stechschulte and wife, Ignatius, who was a former commissioner of this county, and now a resident of Owosso, Michigan; Joseph, a farmer of Union township; Frank, also a farmer living in Union township; August, of Leipsic; Barney, a farmer of Liberty township; Henry A., who is living on the old home farm; Bertha, the widow of William Hoffman, who lives in Pleasant township, and Theresia Klausling, who died on April 1, 1908.

August Stechschulte remained on the farm until he was seventeen years of age and then began to learn the tailor's trade. When he was only twenty-two years of age in 1882 he started in the tailoring and clothing business at Leipsic, and has been in the business continuously since that year. He was sergeant-at-arms of the sixty-sixth General Assembly of Ohio in 1884 and 1885, and filled the duties of this arduous position to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He has been a life-long Democrat, and has served as township clerk, township treasurer, corporation treasurer and city councilman, and in all of these positions rendered his fellow citizens faithful and efficient service. He takes a genuine interest in the civic life of the community in which he has resided so many years and never fails to give his hearty support to all measures of general welfare.

Mr. Stechschulte was married in 1886 to Anna Rampe, the daughter of William and Theresia (Ellerbrock) Rampe, and to this union have been born four sons and three daughters, Amelia, Adolph, Victor, Clarence, Mary, Agnes and Norbert. Adolph, who married Gertrude Graney, of Columbus, is a partner with his father in the tailoring and clothing business. All of the other children are still single and living at home. Mrs. Stechschulte's father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and was a pioneer shoemaker in Glandorf, in this county. He built up a large industry for a town of this size, at one time having from fifteen to twenty men working under him, making shoes.

Mr. Stechschulte and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and one of his sons, Victor, is a member of the Society of Jesus. Mr. Stechschulte is a wide-awake, genial and courteous man and is one of the best known citizens of the community.

JOHN E. ROOSE.

The présent auditor of Putnam county, Ohio, John E. Roose, was born, reared and has been a life-long resident of this county. His father was a pioneer resident and settled here in Jennings township when the land which he entered from the government was covered with a dense growth of timber. Mr. Roose is a man who has been prominently identified with the history of his county for many years. As a young man he taught schools for five years, and followed this with several years in the drug business. Ten more years were spent as cashier of the Peoples Bank at Kalida, while since 1911 he has been the auditor of his county. As a public servant of his fellow citizens, he is now administering the duties of his office in a very efficient and painstaking manner.

John E. Roose, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Diller) Roose, was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 4, 1869. His father was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, and came here from Allen county, this state, where he had married Elizabeth Diller. She was a native of Pennsylvania.

Henry Roose and his wife located in Jennings township when it was an unbroken forest. He entered land from the government and started in to make a home for himself and family. He cleared away a large enough space on which to build a rude log cabin and with the assistance of his wife and children as they grew up, he eventually had a farm which provided a comfortable living for the family. Six children were born to Henry Roose and wife, two of whom died in infancy, Barbara, who died in 1912, was the wife of John Lawyer, a farmer of Jennings township; Peter, of Marion, Michigan; George W., a farmer of Jackson township, and John E., who is now living in the county seat.

John E. Roose received his elementary education in the schools of Jennings township, and later attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, for four terms. He then taught school for five years in Sugar Creek and Jennings townships, and gave excellent satisfaction as an instructor of

the youth. He then moved to Kalida, in this county, and engaged in the drug business in that place for several years. After disposing of his drug business he clerked for two years in the stores of Kalida, and then became the cashier of the Peoples Bank, of that place, holding this position for nearly ten years. His worth as a public citizen and the confidence which the people have in his ability is shown by the fact that he was nominated and elected in the fall of 1910 as auditor of Putnam county. He took his office in the spring of 1911, and his services were so satisfactory that he was re-elected by his party in the fall of 1912. He was again a candidate in the fall of 1914 and was elected to serve another term.

Mr. Roose was married in 1892 to Estella C. Conaway. She was born in Putnam county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Basis C. and Rebecca (Moore) Conaway. Her father was a farmer for many years in this county but is now living a retired life in Findlay, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Roose are the parents of seven children, Fred L., Russell, Grace, Ralph, Elbert, Zella and Lucile.

Mr. Roose has always been a Democrat, and has been one of the leaders of his party in township and county affairs. He belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, and also to the council and chapter. He holds his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Home Guards. He and his family are all loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and generous contributors to its support. Mr. Roose is a self-made man and the prosperity which has come to him is the direct result of his own abilities directed along proper lines. He is a man of sterling integrity and no man in the county stands in higher esteem among his fellow citizens.

BERNARD H. HERINGHAUS.

The Heringhaus family are of German descent; the parents of Bernard H. Heringhaus coming to this country from Germany in 1867. Four years later his parents located in Putnam county, Ohio, and lived there the remainder of their lives. Mr. Heringhaus has had fifteen years of newspaper experience, but for the past few years, has been engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Ottawa.

Bernard H. Heringhaus, the son of Rudolph and Christina (Richter-) Heringhaus, was born on March 13, 1879, in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born at Oesede, Hanover, Germany, in 1843, and is

a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Buddlemeyer) Heringhaus. Rudolph Heringhaus came to America in January, 1867, and located in Cincinnati, and on October 9, of the same year he was married in that city to Christina Richtering, who was born in what was Beesten, Hanover, now Kaiserreich, Prussia. She is a daughter of Bernard and Margarite Adelaide (Meerz) Richtering, and was reared in Germany, coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, from her native land in 1866.

Rudolph Heringhaus and wife lived at Cincinnati until 1871, and in that year came to Putnam county, and for three and one-half years lived in Greensburg township, after which time they moved to Ottawa, where they have since resided. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Heringhaus, Anna, Henry, Catherine, Minnie, Bernard H. and Mary. Anna is the wife of Andrew Roof and has three children, Adelaide, Edward and Mary. Henry, who is unmarried, makes his home in Ottawa. Catherine is the wife of George C. Laibe and lives in Akron, Ohio. Minnie is the wife of Frank Distel, of Toledo, Ohio, where she died on June 20, 1912, leaving her husband with two children, Mary and Clara. Mary died at the age of six weeks. He and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, while he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Bernard Heringhaus grew to manhood in Ottawa and before reaching his majority began to learn the printer's trade in the office of *Der Demokrat*. For fifteen years he worked at the newspaper business and became a thorough and practical printer. He then became a partner with Samuel Cartwright in the furniture and undertaking business in Ottawa, and has since continued along this line of endeavor. He went to Cincinnati and learned the embalming business and was licensed as an embalmer on June 20, 1908. Mr. Cartwright remained as his partner less than a year in the business, and was succeeded by F. F. Pope, who, with Mr. Heringhaus, still continues the business.

Mr. Heringhaus has taken a very active part in the civic life of Ottawa. He has served six years as clerk of Ottawa, and served during the time the waterworks was being built. He afterward served for five years as clerk of the waterworks board. He is now a member of the school board of Ottawa, and is also a member of the Putnam county school board. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Mr. Heringhaus was married on October 18, 1904, to Mary A. Laibe, and to this union have been born three sons, Francis, Cornelius and Robert.

Mrs. Heringhaus was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, and is

a daughter of Edmund and Magdalene (Kroft) Laibe, both of her parents being natives of this county. Her mother died in 1910, and her father, who was a life-long farmer, is now living a retired life in Ottawa. Edmund Laibe was born in Buffalo, New York, November 7, 1855, and was a son of Mark and Catherine (Benziger) Laibe. His parents came from Belfort, Alsace, France, and lived in Brooklyn, New York, for a short time, before locating in Buffalo. Mark Laibe and his family moved to Putnam county, Ohio, about 1856, and located in Pandora, where he operated a blacksmith shop until 1868. In that year Mark Laibe and his family moved to a farm two and one-half miles south of Gilboa, where he lived until October, 1885, when he moved into Ottawa, where he retired and lived until his death April 8, 1899. His wife died on January 27, 1909. Edmund Laibe grew up on his father's farm and married Mary Magdalene Kroft, a daughter of Joseph and Catherine Kroft, who came from Alsace and settled in Putnam county, Ohio. After Edmund Laibe married he began farming about a mile north of the old home place and lived there until 1889, in which year he moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. He has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the county. Five children were born to Edmund Laibe and wife, Mary Amelia, the wife of B. H. Heringhaus; William E., George E., Frank E., and Blanche V., the wife of Cornelius H. Ellis.

HENRY GRISMORE.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and are incentives to others. The examples they furnish, of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrates what is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate renown. The instances of success in the face of adversity almost justifies the conclusion that self-reliance, with half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. The gentleman, whose life story is here set out, is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a splendid success. By a straightforward and commendable course, he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people in his community, and earning the reputation of being a progressive man of affairs, which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate.

Henry Grismore, the subject of this sketch, was born on October 24,



HENRY GRISMORE.

1839, in Wayne township, Butler county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Catherine (Weaver) Grismore. John Grismore was born in Burkes county, Pennsylvania, in August, 1812, and was the son of Abraham Grismore and wife.

From all accounts, Abraham Grismore and wife were natives of Pennsylvania. At one time, Abraham was considered a well-to-do man, and was the owner of a linseed oil mill. Before his death, however, he was greatly reduced, financially, on account of having secured the debts of other men, and their failures to meet their obligations. John Grismore and Abraham Grismore, Jr., were the only sons. There were seven daughters. John was but twelve years of age when his father died, leaving his mother with nine children and thirty acres of stony land, which was their only means of support. When a boy, his mother bound him out to a tailor to learn the trade, and when he was twenty-two years old, he came to Ohio, down the Ohio river, to Cincinnati, by boat, landing there with twenty-five cents in his pocket. Being the master of a good trade he proceeded to Lebanon, Ohio, where he had a friend who was a tailor. From here he located at Jacksonboro, Butler county, where he established a tailor shop. It was here that he first met Catherine Weaver, the daughter of Henry Weaver and wife, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and a prosperous farmer of Wayne township, Butler county. A part of the town of Jacksonboro was located on Henry Weaver's land.

When John Grismore was twenty-four years old, he was married to Catherine Weaver. In addition to conducting his tailoring business, in the winter and spring, he devoted the summers to his little farm of thirty-seven acres, five miles from Jacksonboro. It was here that three of the children were born. Sarrah died in infancy; Henry is the subject of this sketch, and Mary Ann was the third child. After a residence in Jacksonboro of about ten or eleven years, two years of which were spent on his little farm, he sold out and moved to Riley township, Putnam county, January 13, 1845. It was during the preceding spring that he and Mr. Weaver made a trip to Putnam county on horseback to purchase a farm. John bought sixty-eight acres, two miles south of Pendleton, now Pandora, and Mr. Weaver, a farm north of and adjoining the town of Pendleton. It was on January 13, 1845, after a trip covering five days over muddy roads, a hundred and twenty miles in all, that they arrived at the scene of their new home in three wagons. The last day of the trip they were only able to cover seven miles. There was a hewed log house and round log barn on the place, and probably about five acres of the land cleared. John Grismore worked, clearing his place, during

the summer months, while he followed his trade as a tailor during the winter. After several years, he managed to get his first farm, practically all cleared, and then purchased eighty acres next to his first farm. From time to time he added to his holdings until he had accumulated five hundred and forty-eight acres. After moving to Riley township, there were five children born, making eight in all, six of whom lived to maturity. The last five were, George, Elizabeth, who died at twelve years of age; Harriet, Phoebe and Martin. The last named was killed by a falling tree in the woods when he was thirty-five years old. John Grismore died on December 29, 1899, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. His wife, who was born in Butler county, in 1816, died in Richland township, Allen county, in 1880, at the age of sixty-four.

Henry Grismore came with his parents to Putnam county when he was six years old. It was here that he spent his boyhood. His was the life that generally fell to the lot of a pioneer's son. He was thirteen years old before there were any schools in his neighborhood. However, he had learned to read and spell from his mother. The balance of his education consisted of an average of twenty-two days a year, for eight years, in school. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years old. During the spring, following his twenty-second birthday, he went to Ontario and there remained for nearly three years.

It was near Hamburg, Ontario, that Mr. Grismore met and married on January 9, 1866, Francisca Gintler, who had been born in Wurtemberg, Germany. Immediately afterwards he returned to Ohio and settled on a part of his father's place, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which farm he later bought from his father. Seven years later, in the fall of 1873, he moved to a place of eighty acres, one mile south of Pandora, which he had bought the previous June. He has lived on this place ever since. The place had a substantial frame house for those days, in which he lived for twelve years, or until 1885, when he built a large, handsome, brick residence, of twelve rooms.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grismore have had eleven children, seven of whom have lived to maturity. John W. married Magdalene Lehman and lives two miles north of Pandora. They have seven children. Cora is the wife of E. J. Miller, who lives one mile north of Pandora. They have two children. Oscar married Elona Day. They live in Los Angeles, California, and have four children. Emma is the wife of Edward Morelock, of Crediton, Ontario. They have three children. Levi married Levina Towsley, and lives one mile southwest of Pandora. They have three children. Otto married Martha Wittich, Brilliant, Ohio. They have two daughters. Carl A. mar-

ried Leah Triplehorn, and lives on the home place. They have one child, Donald. Mary Ann is the wife of Guy R. Fromm, of Cincinnati. They have one child. Jessie Pearl died at the age of two years. Grover C. is unmarried. He is an instructor in the law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Fred married Jennie Kisabeth. They live in Memphis, Tennessee, and have no children.

In addition to his farming, Mr. Grismore owned a mill and elevator, from 1892 to 1900. This mill was located at Pandora. He operated it during the period of his ownership. Henry Grismore has been a most successful farmer and, altogether, owned five hundred and fifty-six acres. At one time he was the largest single taxpayer in Putnam county, having been very successful with hogs and cattle. Lately, Mr. Grismore has disposed of a part of his holdings, but still retains three hundred and thirty-six acres of the finest land in Putnam county. He is a director and treasurer in the Farmers Banking Company, at Pandora, and is known as a successful banker. Mr. Grismore is a Democrat. He served as township trustee for six years, as a supervisor, and was member of the school board for eighteen years. Religiously, he and his wife and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in this church Mr. Grismore has held various offices. Henry Grismore is a man of broad experiences and is counted as one of the best farmers in the county, a good citizen and a true friend. He is a fine type of Christian gentleman, and eminently deserves the esteem and confidence placed in him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

JOHN J. RAMPE.

The Rampe family came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1872, and for the past forty years have been connected with the advancement of this county along agricultural, commercial and educational lines. John J. Rampe was fourteen years of age when his parents moved to this county, and for the past thirty-five years he has been engaged in business for himself at Ottawa. Starting to learn the shoe trade, as a shoemaker, when he was twelve years of age, he opened a shoe shop of his own, at the age of twenty-one, and sold shoes, which he himself made for a few years. He then put in stock of factory-made shoes, and gradually added other furnishing goods, until he now has the largest store in Ottawa.

John J. Rampe, the son of Barney and Mary (Miller) Rampe, was

born in Covington, Kentucky, September 12, 1859. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and his mother, in Haagen, Germany. His parents were married in Covington, Kentucky, and to them were born eight children, seven sons and one daughter, of whom four died in infancy. The other four, are as follows: Louis, who died at Edaville, Iowa, about ten years ago; Fred, who learned the shoemaking trade with his brother, John J., and followed it until his death, on March 9, 1896, at the age of thirty-three; Lizzie, the wife of Joseph Roof, living at Glandorf, and John J., of Ottawa. Fred, the brother of John J., married Mary Smith, of Glandorf, and was the father of five daughters and one son, who, with his widow, are still living.

Barney Rampe was a contractor and lived in Covington, Kentucky, until about 1875, and laid many of the sidewalks in that city. In that year he moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, his son, John J., having preceded the family, coming to this county, when he was twelve years of age, to learn the shoemaker's trade with his uncle, William Rampe, Sr. William Rampe, Sr., had come here in the early history of the county, and was in the shoe business at Glandorf for about fifty years, or until his death, on November 28, 1893. Barney Rampe died in Putnam county, December 6, 1893, and his widow died on October 31, 1899. Barney Rampe and his wife lived in Glandorf, Putnam county, after moving here, and he continued making sidewalks.

John J. Rampe lived in Covington, Kentucky, until he was twelve years of age and obtained all of his schooling in that city. He then came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked with his uncle, William Rampe, learning the shoemaker's trade. He remained with his uncle until September 17, 1880, when he started in business in Ottawa for himself. On that day his son, the first child, was born. He started a shoe shop at Ottawa and sold only shoes at first, which he made in his own shop. As his trade increased, he added a line of factory-made shoes and gradually increased his business. A few years later he added a stock of clothing, hats and men's furnishing goods of all kinds, and still later put in a line of ladies' clothing, millinery and dry goods. He now has a jewelry department, as well as a full line of groceries. In fact, he now sells everything to wear, from head to foot, for men, women and children. He has the two main floors and part of the upstairs in the McCracken block, to which he moved about ten years ago. He bought back the small building in which he first started on the south side of Main street on June 25, 1912, and in this building he has placed a large stock of carpets, rugs, and linoleums. In the main store he has a large number of departments, and among the conveniences for customers he has

a rest room with a sign above the door saying, "Welcome to our rest room. A cup of coffee free."

The Rampe stores are easily the largest in Ottawa and it is safe to say that he does the largest retail business of any man in the village. He is the only practical shoe man in the business in Ottawa, his training at the trade making him an expert in judging stock. He has killed and skinned the steer, tanned the hide and made the shoes from the leather. Accordingly, he knows the business of shoemaking thoroughly, and this fact has undoubtedly had much to do with his success as a dealer in shoes.

Mr. Rampe was married at the age of twenty to Anna Leopold, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth Leopold, pioneer settlers of Glandorf, in this county. Mr. Leopold came from Glandorf, Germany, in the early history of the county, and was a storekeeper and stockbuyer at Glandorf. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rampe, Harry B. and Emma L. Harry B. has charge of the men's department of his father's store, and Emma has charge of the ladies' department. Harry married Lucile Jennings, of Carrs, Kentucky. The first wife of Mr. Rampe died, February 16, 1910, and on January 17, 1914, he married Martha Kerner, who was born in Ottawa, and is the daughter of Philip and Agnes (Maag) Kerner.

Mr. Rampe, with his wife and children, are loyal and devout members of the Catholic church, and are generous contributors to its support. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Lima, Ohio. Mr. Rampe is a thorough business man, and by industry and unexcelled business judgment has become one of the most substantial men of the county.

CHARLES A. FERRALL.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action which one has decided upon. Success was never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer. She never courts the loafer and only those men, who have diligently sought her favor, are crowned with her blessing. It is apparent that the success of Charles A. Ferrall, leading restaurant man of Putnam county, located at Ottawa, has been won by unflinching industry, determination and a fixed will. These qualities have also gained for him the high esteem of the people of Ottawa.

Charles A. Ferrall was born in Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, September

20, 1873, the son of John and Louise (Devinney) Ferrall. John Ferrall was born in 1838, and was reared in Blanchard township, Putnam county. He was the eldest son of James and Parthena (Hickerson) Ferrall, who came to this county soon after their marriage and located in Blanchard township. They came from Licking county, Ohio. James Ferrall was the son of John Ferrall, a soldier in the American Revolution.

John Ferrall grew up in Blanchard township. His father was a shoemaker at Gilboa and was an expert at this trade. John Ferrall married Louise Devinney in 1862, who was born in Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, the daughter of John and Anna (Umwake) Devinney. John Devinney was the son of James Devinney, who was a native of France and a soldier in Lafayette's army in the American Revolution. Anna Umwake was one of four children, brought by their parents from Pennsylvania to Fairfield county, Ohio. Louise Devinney lived at Lancaster until ten years of age and then came to Ottawa with her sister, Mrs. Redd and her husband, who moved here in wagons, in 1848. They located about two miles east of Ottawa, south of the Blanchard river, where the old Pierman home is now located. Four years later, Louise Devinney went to live with her half-brother, Jacob Green, who conducted the *Defiance Democrat*, and was probate judge for many years and a man well known in the county. Louise Devinney went to Defiance in order to take advantage of the better schools at that place and, after three years, began teaching. She taught about five years south and southeast of Ottawa until her marriage. John Ferrall was a soldier in the Ninth Ohio Cavalry. He enlisted a short time before his marriage and later re-enlisted. Three of his brothers also served in the Union army. John Ferrall was in the service until the close of the war, Mrs. Ferrall meanwhile staying with her mother who then lived near Columbus Grove. After the war, John Ferrall spent the rest of his life at Gilboa, where he engaged in various lines of business. He died in October, 1885. He was widely known as a genial-tempered man and was marshal of Gilboa for many years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrall were the parents of five children, Mary, the wife of George Rennells, of Toledo; Anna, the widow of David Long, who was a lawyer of Ottawa; Charles A., the subject of this sketch; Eliza, the wife of Bert Shondell, a railroader, of Fort Wayne; William, a conductor on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, of Lima, Ohio. About two years after Mr. Ferrall died, Mrs. Ferrall moved to Ottawa, where she built a home and where she has resided since that time.

Charles A. Ferrall started a restaurant at his present location just east

of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton tracks on the south side of Main street, about 1903. At that time it was an old frame building. He started in a small way and continued in business with increasing success.

Mr. Ferrall traveled to the Pacific coast to marry in the spring of 1910. He was married at Los Angeles, California, May 5, 1910, to Laura Kraft, who was born on May 5, 1882, at Ottawa, Ohio. She is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Trame) Kraft.

John Kraft was born on March 25, 1855, a short distance north of Ottawa. He is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Gross) Kraft. Joseph Kraft and wife were natives of Alsace and married there. They came to this country nearly seventy years ago. Joseph Kraft was a farmer and the son of Andrew and Walbruck (Brockmeyer) Kraft, and was born June 3, 1812, settling in this country in 1851. His wife, whom he married in Haucknew, France, April 17, 1842, was also born in Alsace, July 16, 1822. She was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Burger) Gross, who came to this country in 1851.

Joseph Kraft and wife settled north of Ottawa and spent the rest of their lives on the farm. John Kraft, their son, married Elizabeth Trame in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Kraft are the parents of three children living and one dead, Laura Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Ferrall; Catherine Johanna, the wife of Nicholas Miller, ex-sheriff of Putnam county; Mary Dorothy, who died at the age of four years and three months; and Clarence Edwin, who is at home. Elizabeth Trame was born at Toledo, Ohio, February 25, 1853, the daughter of Christopher and Mary (Brinkman) Trame, both of whom were born and reared in Hanover, Germany, the former on October 30, 1819.

Mrs. Ferrall spent most of her younger life in Ottawa, where she attended the parochial schools and also the Ottawa high school, from which latter school she was graduated at the age of seventeen. She then spent several years in the Meffley dry goods store and two years in Toledo in mercantile business. She then went to Los Angeles to live with her married sister and it was not long after she went to live in Los Angeles that Mr. Ferrall joined her.

After their marriage, Mr. Ferrall came back to Ottawa and, the following October, sold out, expecting to locate in Los Angeles. In February he returned to Ottawa and opened a restaurant in the second room east of where the Ottawa Banking Company is located. In the December following he moved into his present location where a new building had been erected.

and has been in business here ever since. In March, after opening in his new location, he purchased his present home.

Mr. Ferrall is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For twenty-three years he has been a member of the Ottawa fire department. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrall have two children, Paul Aubrey and Catherine Louise. Mr. Ferrall is a big whole-souled man, fond of hunting, fishing and other clean sports. He is a shrewd and careful buyer and knows how to conduct a good restaurant. Mrs. Ferrall is a woman of charming appearance and socially is popular in Ottawa. Their children are bright, healthy youngsters, of whom their parents are very proud.

ANDERSON JAMES YOUNG.

Ohio was not lacking in loyalty during the dark days of the Civil War when the Ship of State was almost stranded on the rocks of Disunion, but contributed her full quota of brave men to assist in preserving the integrity of the government, prominent among whom was Anderson James Young, now a well-known druggist of Leipsic, Ohio. Loyal to his country in its hour of peril and extremity, as was demonstrated on many bloody battle-fields, he has ever been its staunch supporter in times of peace, and today there are few veterans in Putnam county who are more widely and favorably known, and none that can boast of a more honorable record. The ranks of the noble organization to which he belonged in the days of his youth are fast being diminished by the one invincible foe and it is fitting in every publication of this nature that special tribute be paid to those who served through the greatest civil war known to history.

Anderson James Young was born on December 1, 1841, near Tiffin, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel and Isabella (Sutton) Young. Samuel Young was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Seneca county, Ohio, when a young man, settling on a farm. He was a life-long farmer, near Seneca, and was married there to Isabella Sutton, who emigrated with her parents to Seneca county in pioneer days, who were farmers and natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel died on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he spent almost his entire life. When he first acquired possession of the farm, it was a wilderness. Under his directing care and by the consequence of his labors, he saw this farm transformed, by the spade and the plow, into a vast

garden. He amassed quite a fortune and, throughout his life, was a careful, frugal farmer.

Anderson James Young left Seneca county, Ohio, for Putnam county, in 1862, and settled in Van Buren township. He lived in that township for a time, when he left for Hancock county. His education was obtained mostly in the common schools of Seneca county and in the high school at Tiffin. After leaving the high school, he entered the Cincinnati School of Pharmacy, from which institution he was graduated. He also attended the Springfield (Ohio) School of Pharmacy, for some time.

Mr. Young enlisted in Company E, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private, for three years and three months, February 26, 1862, at the age of twenty-three. He was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, April 10, 1864, by order of the war department, and went to Washington, D. C. He was discharged, after serving three years and three months. He enlisted at Tiffin, Ohio, under Col. William H. Gibson and fought in the battles of the western campaign. He was wounded in the hand at Corinth, Mississippi, and again in the knee at Stone's River. He also fought in the battle of Shiloh.

Mr. Young was married on February 10, 1866, to Mary Foulk, a native of Putnam county, born on May 18, 1842, and the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Heck) Foulk. Peter Foulk was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Starke county and after his marriage to Sarah Heck, came to Hancock county, Ohio, when this county was a vast wilderness. He farmed a short time in Hancock county when he removed to Van Buren township, Putnam county, near Leipsic, where he died on November 21, 1878. He was born on February 27, 1811, and was sixty-seven years old at the time of his death. He was married, in 1834. Sarah Heck was a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and, shortly after her birth, was taken by her parents to Hancock county. Peter Foulk was a man of stalwart frame, of powerful muscular development. He was a man of indomitable courage, which qualities enabled him to brave the perils of pioneer life. Peter Foulk's wife died, about 1871. They had ten children, five of whom are now living, Mrs. Julia Young, of Leipsic; Mary, the wife of Mr. Young; Mrs. Lucinda Fike and Mrs. Emma Baughman, both of Leipsic; and Peter, of Chicago, Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson J. Young, three children have been born, Emma B., born on January 5, 1867, now deceased; Everett J., born on April 20, 1869, and Orville E., born on September 7, 1875, who married Della Scott, and has three children, Harry E., who attends the Ohio State Univer-

sity, Katherine and Helen. He is a rural mail carrier and lives in Leipsic, Ohio.

Mr. Young has two sisters and one brother living, Mrs. Rachel Haynes, of Carey, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Jane Noel, of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Washington, of North Baltimore, Ohio.

After his marriage, Mr. Young returned to Leipsic, Ohio, and entered the drug business. He has continued in this business practically all the time, and is still more or less active. He is a skilled pharmacist, and is widely known. Mr. Young holds the only diploma in the city of Leipsic. He is also a jeweler and learned this trade when a young man. At the present time, Mr. Young holds county and state certificates as a druggist.

Mr. Young is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, but is not active now. He is a member of Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Leipsic, Ohio, and belongs to the State Jewelers' Association. He has always been a stanch Republican. Mrs. Young is a member of the Presbyterian church, at Leipsic. Anderson J. Young is a man who is liberal in his views and who believes in free speech. He is a loyal neighbor, has been an excellent business man, and is honored by the people of his community in which he has so long been a factor for general advancement and improvement.

WILLIAM H. BEGG, M. D.

The parents of William H. Begg, M. D., located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1857 and lived there the remainder of their days. Doctor Begg was about four years old when his parents came to this county, and has since spent all of his career here with the exception of the time he spent in college. In his younger manhood he taught school for a time, but since graduating from the medical college in 1881, he has been engaged in the active practice of his profession in Columbus Grove. He has always taken a very prominent part in the life of his community and has served many years on the school board of Columbus Grove, and on the state board for the Toledo hospital for the insane. He and his wife have reared an interesting family of three children.

William H. Begg, M. D., the son of William and Jeap (Dobbie) Begg, was born in 1853, in Franklin county, Ohio. His parents were both born and reared in Cumberlandshire, Scotland, and were married at Stirling in

their native country. They came to America in 1834, and located at Canal Winchester, Ohio. They had started across the state to reach Cincinnati, but when they reached Canal Winchester, Mrs. Begg took sick with the malarial fever, and they had to stop on that account. They continued to reside in Canal Winchester until 1857, and then moved to Putnam county, where they lived the remainder of their days.

Doctor Begg was four years old on the day his parents finally settled in Putnam county. His father bought property in Columbus Grove and also a farm on the edge of Allen county adjoining Putnam. The family lived about three years in Columbus Grove and then moved to the farm, where Doctor Begg grew to manhood. Early in life he began to teach school and before reaching manhood became a student in the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he had for classmates several men who later achieved national fame. He taught school in the country, both before and after attending the university at Lebanon, and was teaching in the high school at Columbus Grove when he decided to pursue a medical course. He resigned his position as high school teacher and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he began his medical studies. Later he became a student in the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati and graduated there in the class of 1881.

Immediately after graduating from college, Doctor Begg located in Columbus Grove for the practice of his profession, and here he has been living since that time. He has built up a very large practice and is not only one of the leading practitioners of his county, but also one of the leaders in his profession in the state. He was a member of the school board for eighteen years and refused to serve longer because of his wide range of medical practice. He served for twelve years as a member of the state board which has charge of the hospital for the insane at Toledo, Ohio. He has always taken an active interest in the life of his community and his support could always be relied upon for all public-spirited enterprises.

Doctor Begg was married on September 8, 1881, to Martha M. Kohli, a daughter of Peter and Louisa (Featheringill) Kohli. Her parents were both born in this county where they have lived all of their lives. Mr. Kohli lived in Pandora, where his father kept a hotel.

Doctor Begg and his wife have three children living, Ethel Jean, Russell Stuart and Harold Kohli. Ethel is a graduate of the Western College at Oxford, Ohio, and is now the wife of W. M. Crawford, of Columbus Grove, whose history appears elsewhere in this volume. Russell graduated in 1908 from the engineering department of the University of Michigan, is a

member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and is now experimental engineer for the Jeffries Automobile Company, at Kenosha, Wisconsin. He married Lenora Sterling, of Columbus Grove, and has one daughter, Edith Martha. Harold, the youngest child of Doctor and Mrs. Begg, is now in the medical department of Northwestern University at Chicago, and is in his third year. He is taking the course leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine, and intends to make the practice of medicine his life work. He belongs to Phi Delta Theta and the Phi Rho Sigma fraternities.

Doctor Begg is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and has attained to the chapter degree. He is a man of genial personality and has those charming characteristics which always mark the genuine Scotchman. Personally, he is tall and commanding in appearance and it is safe to say that no man in his community is held in higher esteem.

MATHIAS J. FUERST.

The Fuerst family was one of the first to locate in Putnam county, Ohio, the father of Mathias Joseph Fuerst locating in this county several years before the Civil War. Mathias J. Fuerst started out to make his own way in the world when he was fifteen years of age, working for a time for fifty cents a day and paying three dollars and a half for board. He worked at the carriagemaker's trade, and for three years worked in the Brown dry goods store in Ottawa. For the past four years he has been engaged in the agricultural implement business, in partnership with Charles J. Kerner. The firm sells all kinds of agricultural implements, cream separators, gas engines, harness, buggies and various implements and tools used on the farm.

Mathias Joseph Fuerst, the son of Anthony and Otilia (Yerger) Fuerst, was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, January 23, 1864. Anthony Fuerst was born in Monheim, Germany, February 4, 1829, coming to America when a young man, about 1854. He lived for a short time in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and, after marrying in that state, moved to Columbus, Ohio, where, a few years later he located in Putnam county, on a farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf.

Anthony Fuerst, who is still living in this county, in his eighty-seventh year, has had a very interesting history. In Germany, he learned the mason's trade, and, after coming to America, he continued to follow it. He started

in a very humble way, after coming to America, and for a time worked for fifty cents a day, and actually saved money. When he came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his wife, he bought a small farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf, where he erected a brick house, which is still standing in a good state of preservation. Afterward, he bought another farm, about three miles north of Ottawa, as well as a small tract, just west of the county seat. All of these farms were covered with timber, when he bought them. He continued to follow the trade of a mason, in connection with his farming and other work, and has built most of the large brick buildings in Ottawa, as well as in other towns throughout the county. He built the Catholic church, the old jail, and a large number of the buildings, in the business part of Ottawa. Anthony Fuerst married in Pennsylvania, shortly after coming to this county, Otilia Yerger, who died in 1876, at the age of forty-four, leaving nine children, all of whom are still living, John, born on April 20, 1856; Mary, born on December 28, 1858; Lizzie, born on January 9, 1860; Louise, born on April 4, 1862; Matthew J., born on January 23, 1864; Henry, born on March 13, 1866; Anna, born on January 25, 1868; Regina, born on February 17, 1870, and Frank, born on March 8, 1872. After the death of his first wife, in 1876, Anthony Fuerst married Mrs. Mary Kapel, the widow of Joseph Kapel, and to this second union three children were born, Toney, Theodore and Emma. Toney was killed by a bursting emery wheel, at Lima, Ohio, in 1911. The mother of these three children died about 1909, and after the death of his second wife, Mr. Fuerst lived with his daughter, Elizabeth, until 1913. He is now making his home at Lima, Ohio, with another daughter Mrs. Louise Day.

Mathias J. Fuerst has spent his whole life in Putnam county. He lived at home until he was fifteen years of age, and then started out to work for himself. With four dollars and a half in his pocket, he went to Van Wert, Ohio, to secure work. He did not know a single person in the town of Van Wert, and, after much trouble, finally secured a job in a spoke factory, at fifty cents a day. In view of the fact that his board cost him three dollars and a half a week, he did not hold this position long, and found employment in a hotel, where he worked as a porter for a short time. He was not satisfied with this, and one day started out to walk through the country in order to look for work on a farm. He finally secured a job as a helper to a brick mason, and shortly afterward found a job in the country on a farm, where he worked for two months. He then came to Ottawa, learned the carriagemaker's trade and followed this for eight and a half years. He entered the dry goods store of the Brown Dry Goods Com-

pany in Ottawa, as a clerk, in 1891, and for twenty consecutive years was an efficient salesman in this store. He started in at one dollar a day and saved his money. After becoming an employee of the store, he resigned his position and spent one year in college. Mr. Fuerst and H. C. Hummins opened an implement store in Ottawa in 1911. A year later, Mr. Hummins disposed of his interests in the firm to Charles J. Kerner, and the firm is now known as Fuerst & Kerner. Although they have been in business but a comparatively short time, they are already building up a large trade throughout the county and bid fair to become well established.

Mr. Fuerst was married in 1896 to Ella McGrevy, the daughter of John and Lizzie McGrevy. Mrs. Fuerst was an employe at Brown's dry goods store until her marriage. Two years after their marriage and five days after the birth of a son, Charles Joseph, Mrs. Fuerst died. This son is now attending school in Ottawa. Fifteen years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Fuerst married Cora Ringenbach, a native of Starke county, Ohio, and a resident of Canton, at the time of her marriage. Mr. Fuerst and his wife and son are members of the Catholic church.

Mr. Fuerst has always been identified with the Democratic party, and has served as clerk of Ottawa for four years. Mr. Fuerst is essentially a self-made man and is well deserving of the success which has come to him. He is a quiet and unassuming man and has a host of friends and acquaintances in Ottawa and throughout the county.

LEVI BASINGER.

Within the past twenty years, Levi Basinger, the subject of this sketch, who during all of this time has been assistant cashier of the People's Bank at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, has arisen to a position of great prominence and power in this section of Putnam county. During this period, Mr. Basinger has not only become well known as one of the important figures in the Peoples Bank, but he has also achieved a remarkable success as a merchant. Likewise, Mr. Basinger, during this period, has acquired a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres east of Columbus Grove. In all of this time, however, he has never lost sight of his large duties because of the added power which his wealth and property have given to him. He has performed every civic and social duty and in

the spirit of one who has had the experience, knows that the possession of great wealth is useless unless it is used to good purpose.

Levi Basinger was born on March 29, 1870, near Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Regina (Lugillbill) Basinger, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of William Basinger, also a son of Christian and Regina Basinger, and contained elsewhere in this volume.

Levi Basinger worked hard on the home farm of his father and mother until twenty-one years old, when he took a business course at the Ohio Northern University at Ada. He has been connected with the Peoples Bank, of Columbus Grove, continuously since that time, a period of nearly twenty-five years. Mr. Basinger is a stockholder in the bank and has been assistant cashier from the time the bank was organized in 1891. The Peoples Bank is a flourishing institution and certainly not the least of the credit is due to the sagacity and good business judgment and management of Levi Basinger.

Mr. Basinger also owns a farm east of Columbus Grove, consisting of one hundred and twenty-five acres. It is a splendid farm and Mr. Basinger devotes considerable attention to the details of its operations. Since 1913, he has owned the controlling interest in the Home Industries store, at Columbus Grove. This store does a good business and Mr. Basinger actively controls its management. He purchased the five and ten-cent store at Columbus Grove in August, 1914. This store carries a complete stock of goods usually found in such stores, and also carries other things at a slightly higher cost than five or ten cents.

Mr. Basinger built his present residence in 1904, which is a large modern home erected on Main street, about one block from the business part of town. It is generally considered as one of the very finest residences in Columbus Grove. Here Mr. Basinger and his wife and family live.

Levi Basinger was married shortly after the beginning of his business career, February 22, 1892, to Elizabeth Amstutz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Amstutz. Mrs. Basinger comes from an old and highly respected family of Putnam county and her marriage to Mr. Basinger has been a most happy one. They have had two children, Catherine and Roswell.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Basinger are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Columbus Grove. Levi Basinger is considered a live wire among the younger business men of Columbus Grove. Notwithstanding his busy career, he is extremely courteous in his business and social relations and is popular throughout this section of Putnam county.

WILLIAM E. DIBBLE.

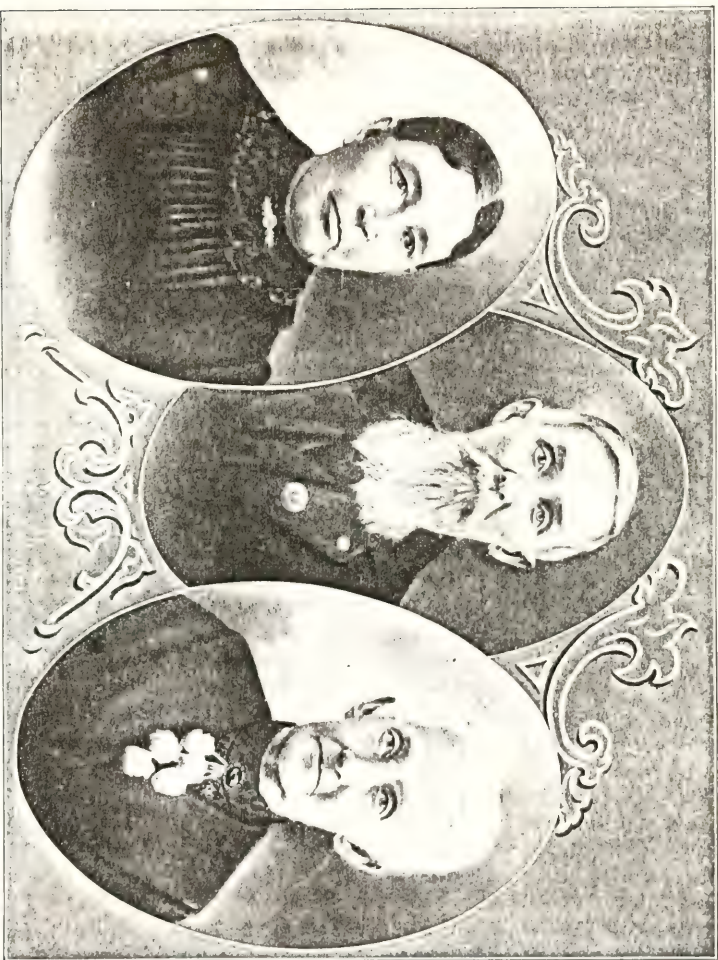
The venerable gentleman, whose career is here briefly given, is one of the older residents of Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio. His life has been such as to win the confidence and good will of the people of his community and to make him well and favorably known throughout Putnam county, of which he has been an honored citizen, for many years. In the highest sense of the term, he is a self-made man and, as such, has met with success. William E. Dibble has a record in life which may be studied with profit by the young men of the rising generation.

William E. Dibble was born twenty-six miles from Rochester, New York, March 5, 1836, and is the son of Orville and Mary Ann (DuBois) Dibble. Orville Dibble was a native of the same county, born on December 17, 1810, the son of Horace Milton Dibble, who, it is said, came from France, and served in the War of 1812.

William E. Dibble was two years old when his father moved to Huron county, Ohio. The family drove through in a wagon and settled in Greenfield township. The family consisted of the father and mother and two children, William E. and a sister, Susan Sayre, who was two years his senior. The family lived on this farm until William E. was thirteen years old and then moved to Norwalk, the county seat, where Mr. Dibble farmed, a mile east of Norwalk. When he first moved to Huron county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, one and one-fourth miles, east of where Chicago Junction is now located. After three years, at Norwalk, the family moved between Milan and Monroeville, on the Huron river. Later, Mr. Dibble went to Weston, in Wood county. He farmed, about four years, in Wood county and then crossed into Lucas county, opposite Otsego, on the Indian reserve, where he farmed on the old Tobo farm, which was owned by old Chief Tobo, for about four years. At the end of this period, he moved to Michigan, where he lived about five miles from Adrian. He later moved to Lenawee county, where he and his wife died.

William E. Dibble was married, while the family lived in Lucas county, Ohio, in 1860. He married Martha Jane Taylor, who was born in Lucas county. To this union four children were born, Sidney C., of Leipsic, Ohio; William Wesley, of Leipsic; Grant, who died at the age of six weeks, and Cora, who died at the age of seventeen months.

William E. Dibble remained with his father until past the age of twenty-five years and worked out six months before his marriage. After he had



MRS. MARTHA J. CAYLOR DIBBLE

WILLIAM E. DIBBLE

MRS. MARTHA J. COTMAN DIBBLE

been married two years, President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand volunteer soldiers and Mr. Dibble enlisted in Company F, One Hundredth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Burnside, Sherman and Schofield. He was with Sherman in the memorable Georgia campaign and was engaged in the siege of Atlanta. After the siege at Knoxville and Atlanta, the army marched to Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and later to Louisville, Cincinnati, Washington and Alexandria, Virginia; thence, by ship to the North Carolina coast, up the Cape Fear river to the capture of Wilmington, thence to Greensboro, where Mr. Dibble saw the last fighting of the war. He was mustered out at the close of the war. He was never away from his regiment during the entire war, was never captured, and was not wounded, although he had many narrow escapes.

After the war, Mr. Dibble worked for three years in the grist-mill, in Lucas county, where he began farming in the Maumee river, district above Waterville. He farmed about eight years and then removed to Ottawa county where he worked in a stave factory for about four years. He removed to the south edge of Henry county, one-half mile north of the Putnam county line, in Marion township, at the end of this period, and purchased a tract of timber land of sixty acres. Mr. Dibble cleared this land and made out of it a good farm. He remained there until August, 1912, when he moved to Leipsic, where he still resides. Here Mr. Dibble owns his own home.

Mr. Dibble's first wife died on February 6, 1897; he was married again on March 17, 1904, to Mrs. Martha Jane (Dunlap) Dove, who was born, near Warsaw, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of David and Soveña (Meredith) Dunlap. Her parents were both natives of Coshocton county, Ohio, and when she was nine years old, they moved to Utica, Licking county, and lived there the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Dibble married Sylvester Milton Dove, in 1868, and lived at Utica. He died on February 20, 1899. He was a stone mason all his life.

Mr. Dove was a soldier in the Sixteenth Indiana Cavalry and was Grant's orderly for some time, carrying dispatches for him. He was born near Frederick, Maryland, and was the son of William and Annie (Baker) Dove. Mr. Dove was a member of the Christian church. At his death, he left three children living, Levi Elmer, George Alva and Edward Guy. One child, born to this union, died in infancy. Levi Elmer, who is a blacksmith, married Medda Shoefeldt, and lives at Argyle, Michigan. They have had seven children, Nellie, Harry, Martha, Frank, Leone, Melville and Lyle, who was a twin brother of Leone, and is now deceased. George Alva, who is a

mason, married Nora Davis and lives at Auburn, Indiana. They have eight children, Bernice, Eunice, Mabel, Paul, Rolland, Morton, George and Arthur. Edward G., who is a painter and decorator, married Ada Davis, and lives at Utica, Ohio. They have three children, Blanche, Earle and Stanley. Edward G. is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Maccabees.

William E. Dibble is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the American Flag House and the Betsy Ross Memorial Association. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs and has held several minor offices. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. Not only is Mr. Dibble a highly-respected citizen, but he is a man who truly deserves the esteem bestowed upon him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

WILLIAM P. S. YOUNG.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Putnam county within the pages of this book, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality, and whose interests are identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides, and to the advancement of its moral and legitimate growth. Among this number is William P. S. Young, the well-known auto liveryman of Leipsic, Ohio.

William P. S. Young was born on July 7, 1858, at Jerry City, Wood county, Ohio. He is a son of William P. and Mary Josephine (Jackman) Young. Mr. Young left Jerry City at the age of one year with his parents, who came to Leipsic, Ohio, and located. He remained in the latter city with his parents until his marriage, in 1881, working with his father in a grist and stave-mill, as engineer, for about five years after his marriage. He then engaged in the grocery business at Ridgeland, Ohio, remaining here about six years, after which he removed to Lima, Ohio, and worked for his uncle, J. B. Jackman, driving a huckster wagon. He remained in Lima for about six years, after which he removed to Holgate, Ohio, where he became a barber. After one year he removed to Ottawa, Ohio, continuing in the same business in the latter city for a year, when he removed to Leipsic, Ohio, where he conducted a barber shop in the Hotel Leffler. He operated this shop for several years, then purchased a brick building, and in it conducted a barber shop for about twelve years. After the death of his wife,

he engaged in the auto livery business, but recently sold out on account of failing health.

Mr. Young was married on July 21, 1881, to Hattie Snyder, who was born at Carey, Wyandot county, Ohio, the daughter of Milligan and Catherine (Fritter) Snyder, the former a native of this country, and the latter, likewise a native of the United States, but her parents were natives of Germany. Mrs. Young died on May 22, 1914. She was a beloved wife and a charming woman, and a most excellent helpmate to her husband. Her loss has been keenly felt by all with whom she was associated.

Mr. Young is a member of the Knights of Columbus No. 1787, at Ottawa, Ohio. He is a Republican, but has never aspired to office and has never been active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, a free and independent thinker, and congenial among his fellows. William P. S. Young is a man widely known throughout Putnam county and bears a splendid reputation.

William P. Young, the father of William P. S. Young, was born on March 25, 1825, in Wayne county, Ohio, and died on October 19, 1899, at the age of seventy-four years, six months and twenty-four days. At the age of twenty-two years, William P. Young was married to Josephine Jackman, in Seneca county, Ohio, on January 31, 1847, to which place he had migrated from Wayne county, his birthplace. Subsequently, he removed, to Wood county, Ohio, where he took up his residence, and where he engaged in the milling business. He built a grist-mill in Jerry City, and lived here for a time. He later moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he erected the first dwelling house and the first grist-mill in that village, in 1859, and here he lived and engaged in this business for five years. He then moved to Ridgeland, Ohio, in Henry county, where he lived for some time. He also built a mill at Ridgeland, and was postmaster and township treasurer, discharging the duties of the former office for twelve years, and of the latter for eleven years.

William P. Young was married first to Josephine Jackman, who died in 1886, and after her death he married Margaret Vaughn. Subsequently, he removed to a farm in Pleasant Grove, Putnam county, and here the second Mrs. Young died, in 1894. Mr. Young married Sarah Winters in 1895. He was engaged in the milling business for more than thirty-five years, and experienced both success and disappointment.

William P. Young was the father of the following children, born to his first marriage: George Washington, living in Henry county, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Jane Enck, living at Custer, Ohio; John P., a resident of Henry county;

Mrs. Isabella Goodman, of Henry county; Mrs. Sarah Archer, of Holgate, Ohio; William P. S., the immediate subject of this review; Abraham P., of Huber, Hancock county, Ohio; Dora P., of Holgate; Louis P., also a resident of Holgate, and Simon P., of Leipsic.

The late William P. Young abounded in goodness and honesty. He was noted for his charitableness toward the poor, and was very buoyant and kindly disposed toward his fellows. Mr. Young's first wife was a member of the Roman Catholic church, and he permitted her to have her own way in rearing the children, but he, himself, was brought up in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in his earlier years was a member and maintained his sympathies and personal interest toward that church. He was buried at Ridgeland, Ohio, in Young's cemetery, the ground formerly owned and occupied by his saw and stave-mill.

William P. Young was one of a family of eleven children, five of whom are still living, three brothers and two sisters: Mrs. Rachel Haines, of Adrian, Ohio; Washington, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Solomon, of Leipsic; Anderson, also a resident of Leipsic, and Mrs. Mary Jane Nole, of Terre Haute, Indiana.

Thus, for several generations the Young family have been well known in this section of Ohio. They have been noted always for their honesty, their industry and earnest, sincere Christian lives. Such people are always respected in the community where they live and each generation of the Youngs has been highly respected in Putnam county.

JUDGE A. M. HEIDLEBAUGH.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the east and west are combined in the citizens of Ohio. The enthusiastic enterprise which overcomes all obstacles and makes possible any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous western states, is here tempered by the stable and more careful policy that we have borrowed from our eastern neighbors. The combination is one of unusual force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the state and country on a par with the older east, at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which is frequently lacking in the west. This happy combination of characteristics is possessed to a notable degree by Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh, of Columbus

Grove. He is too well known to the readers of this work to need any formal introduction here. He comes of well-known parentage, and he, himself, has filled and is filling a large place in the affairs of the community. He is a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and is regarded as one of the progressive, enterprising citizens of Putnam county.

Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh was born on November 10, 1864, in Peoria, Illinois, the son of Noah and Rosanna (Mericle) Heidlebaugh. Noah Heidlebaugh was born in Hocking county, Ohio, and was the son of John Heidlebaugh, whose father came from the old country. Rosanna Mericle was the daughter of Solomon Mericle and she was born in Hocking county, Ohio, living there until her marriage. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Noah Heidlebaugh was born, reared and married in Hocking county, Ohio. At the beginning of the Civil War, he went to Peoria, Illinois, where he enlisted in the Union army. His wife returned to Hocking county in the meantime and while in camp, Noah Heidlebaugh took the measles. After many years, this caused blindness and for the last ten years of his life he was blind. After returning from the army, he came back to Hocking county, Ohio, and in 1872, moved to Putnam county, locating near what is now Rushmore, in Jennings township. He continued farming in that locality and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1893. Noah Heidlebaugh was a man of considerable influence in his community. He served as township clerk and was justice of the peace of Hocking county, Ohio. His widow is still living in Rushmore.

Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh grew up on the farm near Rushmore. At the age of twenty, he began teaching school and after teaching one year, he attended college at Lebanon. After leaving college, he resumed teaching and taught for twenty years in Putnam county. He taught in Jennings, Sugar Creek and Union townships. While teaching, Judge Heidlebaugh purchased a farm in Sugar Creek township and in 1893 he began farming but continued to teach during the winter. He was elected justice of the peace in 1896 and on September 1, 1897, was appointed a member of the county board of school examiners. He had served as justice of the peace six years and was school examiner until February, 1903, when he became probate judge, which compelled his resignation as school examiner. As probate judge, he had the novel experience of appointing his own successor to the board of school examiners. Judge Heidlebaugh served six years as probate judge and retired, in February, 1909. At the close of his services as

judge, he remained in Ottawa about a year and then came to Columbus Grove and purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove. This bank was organized as a private bank in 1873 and operated as such until 1914, when it was incorporated as a state bank. The present officers are, Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh, president; W. M. Crawford, cashier, and B. F. Seitz, vice-president. This bank does a large business in the southern part of Putnam county. Since he entered the banking business, Judge Heidlebaugh has devoted his entire time to banking though he still holds his farm in Sugar Creek township.

Judge Heidlebaugh was married to Lydia Deffenbaugh in 1889, who was born in Sugar Creek township, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Derbyshire) Deffenbaugh. Jacob Deffenbaugh is of Pennsylvania German ancestry and was a native of that state. About 1832 he came with his parents to Putnam county. John Deffenbaugh was county auditor of Putnam county and a well-known and influential man. Jacob Deffenbaugh was a life-long farmer and during the last six or seven years of his life, lived retired in Columbus Grove. He was a justice of the peace and a member of the school board in Sugar Creek township. He died in 1912. His wife was born in Sugar Creek township and was the daughter of Jesse and Lydia (Pierce) Derbyshire. They were early settlers on the farm adjoining the Deffenbaughs. The Derbyshires were of English ancestry and Mrs. Derbyshire was a distant relative of President Franklin Pierce.

Judge and Mrs. Heidlebaugh are the parents of four children, Grace L., who is teaching in the schools of Columbus Grove, and attended college at Defiance, Ohio; Mary M., who attended Oxford and taught two years, now being a student at Oxford; Harold H., who is also at Oxford College; and Nolan Eugene, who is seven years of age and in the second school grade. The three elder children graduated from the high school, Grace at Ottawa, and the other two at Columbus Grove.

Judge Heidlebaugh and wife belong to the Christian church of Sugar Creek township, as do also the three elder children. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias, also other orders. Judge Heidlebaugh took the degree work in the Patrons of Husbandry. He is a friendly and obliging man, who, despite his personal success, does not forget his larger duty and responsibility to the public. He is naturally a leader in his community and a man whose counsel is sought in many enterprises, public and private. Judge Heidlebaugh is entitled to rank as one of the best-known and most successful citizens of Putnam county, Ohio.

WILSON MARTIN CRAWFORD.

The name of Crawford has long been connected with the development and progress of Putnam county, Ohio, and especially the southern half of the county. John M. Crawford, the father of Wilson Martin Crawford, was a man who reflected credit upon the community and county where he lived. The greatness of a community lies not in the machinery of government, nor even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen, in his capacity for high and unselfish effort, and his devotion to the public welfare. Wilson Martin Crawford, the scion of this well-known family of the same name, in Putnam county, is a clean-cut young business man who is following in the footsteps of a worthy father. Mr. Crawford is not only a master of his business, but he is a leader among men, distinguished for their grasp of business details, organization and management.

Wilson Martin Crawford grew up in Columbus Grove, and was graduated from the high school there. He was born on September 24, 1879, at Columbus Grove, and is a son of John M. and Sarah A. (Martin) Crawford.

After graduating from the Columbus Grove high school, Mr. Crawford attended Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and was graduated from the academic department in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. Crawford had a splendid record at the university and was popular with the faculty and with the students. He was what might be called at that time a representative college student.

After his graduation from Northwestern University, he returned to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and until 1905 was employed in the Exchange Bank, at that city, of which his father, John M. Crawford, was president. Mr. Crawford went to Denver, Colorado, in 1905, with the W. E. Moses Land and Realty Company, and remained in that city until the spring of 1907. At that time he returned to Columbus Grove and became the assistant cashier of the Exchange Bank. His brother, W. L. Crawford, was cashier, whose death occurred in March, 1907, and from 1910, Wilson M. Crawford has been cashier of this bank.

Mr. Crawford was married on June 22, 1904, to Ethel Jean Begg, the daughter of Dr. William H. and Martha M. (Kohli) Begg. Mrs. Crawford was born and reared at Columbus Grove, and attended the Western College for Women, at Oxford, Ohio, from which institution she was graduated in 1902, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have one daughter, Jean, who was born on June 21, 1913.

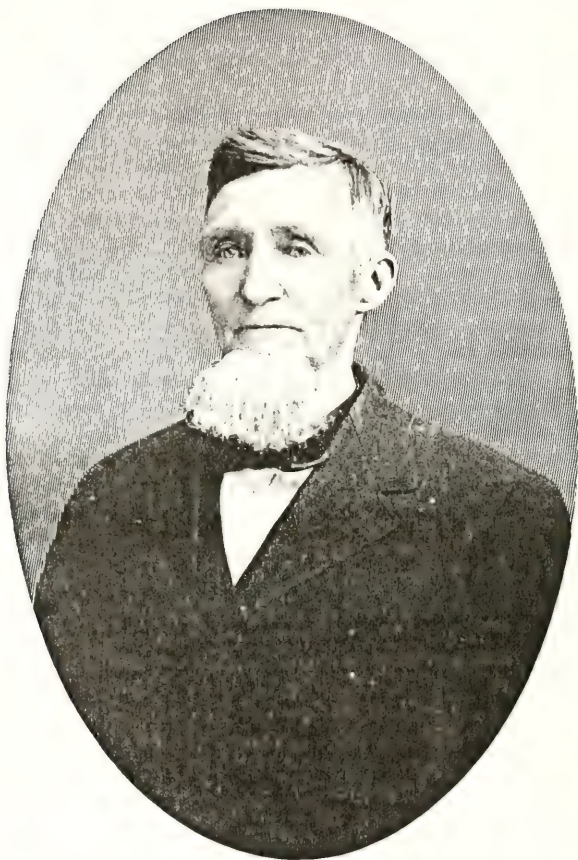
Mr. Crawford is identified with the Democratic party, and is now a

member of the Columbus Grove city council. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and also of the Knights of Pythias. At college he was a member of the National Greek letter fraternity of Phi Delta Theta, one of the oldest of the Greek letter societies in existence. He was also a member of the Deru fraternity. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have a comfortable and beautiful home in Columbus Grove and are socially popular throughout the south half of Putnam county, where they are both well known. Mr. Crawford is regarded in his community as a young man with the inclination, training and equipment in every way to take the place which his father occupied for so many years in the life of this community, a position of prominence and wise leadership.

PROF. S. F. DEFORD.

It is the dictate of our nature, no less than of enlightened social policy, to honor those whose lives have contributed, in any way, to the good of their community and their associates. To bedew with affectionate tears the silent urn of departed worth and virtue, and rehearse the noble deeds of the living, has been the commendable custom of all ages and all nations. Prof. S. F. Deford, the subject of this sketch, is one of nature's true noblemen. In contemplating his estimable qualities, integrity and industry appear as prominent characteristics; an integrity that no personal consideration could swerve and an industry that has no rest while anything remains undone. When a given task was accomplished, he has been in the habit of throwing off all care, retiring to his home and devoting himself to the pursuit of domestic and social enjoyment, for which he has the keenest zest and relish. His temper is calm and equable and his manners are emphatically those of a gentleman, plain and simple, despising sham and pretense of all kinds. His devotion to every duty is intense while his perception of truth and worth is almost intuitive. Although his life has been a busy one, and the private affairs of his home make heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his Christian obligations or the faithful performance of his religious duties. Always calm and straightforward, never demonstrative, his life has been a steady effort for the worth of Christian doctrine, the grandeur of Christian principles and the beauty and elevation of Christian character. He has possessed great sympathy for his fellow men and has al-



PROF. S. F. DEFORD.

ways been ready to aid and encourage those who were struggling to aid themselves. Yet, in this, as in everything, he has been entirely unassuming. When he believed he was in the right, nothing could swerve him from it. At the advanced age of seventy-nine years, Professor DeFord demands the respect of all classes of people.

Prof. Samuel F. DeFord is now the vice-president of the First National Bank, of Ottawa, a position he has held since its organization, in 1903, is still active in business affairs. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, May 2, 1836. He is the son of John and Matilda (Littell) DeFord. The DeFord family is of French-Huguenot origin. Professor DeFord's great-grandfather was John DeFord, who fled under persecution of his sect and found refuge in the state of Maryland, where he lived, as a farmer. He had a son, John, who was born in Maryland, but who lived the greater part of his life in Pennsylvania. Coming to Ohio, in 1799, he entered one thousand acres of land, in Carroll county. At this time he was about forty years of age, but lived to be one hundred and three years old. His wife was Lydia Hopwood, a native of Pennsylvania. John DeFord, Jr., and his wife were the parents of seven children, Harriet, the wife of John H. DeFord; Hannah, Elizabeth, the wife of John Stull, of Augusta, Ohio; John, the father of Prof. Samuel DeFord, who died at the age of eighty-seven; William, who was a prominent farmer and politician of Carroll county, Ohio; Daniel and Nathan B., the latter of Kansas.

John DeFord, the father of Prof. Samuel DeFord, passed his life as a farmer, in Carroll county, Ohio, and served as a justice of the peace thirty-one years. He married Matilda Littell, a French woman, who died, in 1894, at the age of eighty-one. They were the parents of eleven children, Alonzo, a farmer, of Charlottesville, Virginia; William, deceased; Lydia, the wife of William Mosier, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Louisa, the wife of James Daniel, of Carrollton, Ohio; Samuel F., the subject of this sketch; John W., of Celina, Ohio; Matilda C., the wife of a Mr. Sweet, of Baltimore county, Maryland; Harriet M., the wife of Rev. John W. Cummings, Doctor of Divinity, of the Presbyterian church at Nankin, Ashland county, Ohio; Mary L., the wife of John Moreland, a farmer of Newark, Indiana; Thomas B., of Carroll county, Ohio; and Hannah, the wife of John Jackman, of Missouri.

Prof. Samuel F. DeFord was reared on the farm. He attended the district schools and, at the age of seventeen years, entered Mount Union College, at Alliance, from which institution he was graduated, in 1858. One year later, he was graduated from the classical course and, two years after that, received the degree of Master of Arts. Professor DeFord taught, dur-

ing the summer months, to assist in paying his way through college. He had charge of the Monongahela schools, for seven months, during 1856. While he was erecting the large school building at Lordstown, Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1858, he was superintendent of the public schools of Newton Falls, that county. Mrs. James A. Garfield, then Lucretia Rudolph, was one of his assistant teachers. Professor DeFord conducted an academy at Lordstown, until 1861, when he took charge of the public schools, at St. Mary's, Ohio. He remained at St. Mary's until 1863, when he was made superintendent of the Celina (Ohio) schools, a position which he held until 1869. He then became superintendent of the Maumee (Ohio) Seminary, for one year, and after that time came to Ottawa, and was superintendent of the public schools, for fifteen consecutive years, or until 1886.

On account of failing health, Professor DeFord became associated with Samuel Slawson, in 1886, in establishing the Exchange Bank, of Ottawa. Mr. DeFord withdrew, in the spring of 1888, and devoted his attention to farming, holding at this time over five hundred acres of land in different parts of Putnam county. He erected a splendid brick building at the corner of Main and Hickory streets, Ottawa, in 1890, and built many dwellings in Ottawa and many Putnam county towns for rental purposes. For many years he was engaged in the real estate and loan business, and was very successful.

Professor DeFord was married on November 5, 1859, to Mary V. Duncan, who was born at Lordstown, Ohio, August 28, 1837, the daughter of Thomas and Susan (Leach) Duncan. Mrs. DeFord is a charter member of the second oldest club in Ohio, which was chartered in 1876. She had always been active in the religious and club life of her county. To this union five children have been born, Clara, who died at the age of three years and eight months; Matilda E., born November 17, 1867, married W. F. Stevens, who is now librarian of the Carnegie library, at Homestead, Pennsylvania, and who was formerly librarian of the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association Library, sustained by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Mrs. Stevens is an active member of the Daughters of the Revolution, and takes a lively interest in civic work, having been instrumental in organizing a number of clubs. The other children are Mary Ann, who married George W. Meffley, a dry goods merchant, of Ottawa, and who is interested in social and civic work, particularly in public libraries; John T., born June 30, 1874, who is a prominent attorney of Minerva, Ohio, and who graduated from Mount Union College and the Cleveland Law School; and Susie F., born in 1881, who married John A. Hunter, now resides in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Hunter is active

in church work in her home city. She is the mother of one son, John DeFord, who is a student in the Denver public schools.

Samuel F. DeFord is a Democrat. He served three years as county examiner of Mercer county and seventeen years as examiner for Putnam county. He also served as coroner of Putnam county, for two terms, and was president of the school board of Ottawa for many years. He was also a justice of the peace and a member of the Ottawa city council. Professor DeFord is a member of Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Ottawa Chapter No. 115, and of Ottawa Council No. 69. He has also been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1857, having joined the order at Newton Falls, Ohio. Professor DeFord is also a member of the Royal Arcanum. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and became a communicant of that church at the age of sixteen. In 1864 he was ordained a minister of the Methodist church.

Throughout his busy life, Professor DeFord has been prominent in the educational, religious and civic life of Ottawa and Putnam counties. He is one of the foremost citizens of Putnam county and his career was founded upon scrupulous honesty and conscientious relations with his fellow citizens. He is undoubtedly one of the representative citizens of Putnam county.

BARNEY HENRY MAAG.

The man whose name appears above is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Putnam county. He has resided here all his life, being a member of one of the leading families in the community and prominently identified with the farming interests throughout this region of country. His well directed efforts in the practical management of his affairs and his sound judgment, have brought to him a fair measure of prosperity, and in all the relations of his life he has commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

Barney Henry Maag was born in Pleasant township, this county, March 28, 1881, and is the son of William and Bernardina (Kabli) Maag, whose life-record is given elsewhere in this work under the name of John C. Maag.

Barney Henry Maag spent his youth on his father's farm in this county, Pleasant township, and received his education in the township schools, but was not a regular attendant for the reason that he was obliged to work on

the farm. After remaining with his parents until the age of maturity, he was married on November 27, 1907, to Helena Meyer, daughter of Theodore and Mary Ann (Drerup) Meyer, who was born in Ottawa township, this county. Her father was a native of Germany and came to this county with his parents when he was seven years of age. They first settled in Ottawa township, near the town of Glandorf, this county, where Theodore spent his early days and grew to manhood. Soon after his marriage he bought forty acres of farming land in this neighborhood, to which he added more land, from time to time, until the homestead place contained a total of ninety-five acres. He later bought an additional one hundred acres, which is now occupied by his son, Antoon Meyer, who bought it from his father. Theodore Meyer followed the business of farming throughout his life, and was successful. His death occurred on October 24, 1897, at which time he was in the sixty-fourth year of his age. Mr. Maag's wife's mother was a native of the town of Glandorf, Ohio, where she was born on July 17, 1838, and after living a most devoted, useful and successful life as a helpmate to her husband, during his pioneer and later life, she lived until September 16, 1913, leaving behind her sweet memories of cheerfulness and love for the family that now mourn her loss. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Theodore, deceased; Anton, Frank, deceased; Barney, deceased; Joseph, who lives in the state of Michigan; Mrs. Joseph Deters, of Glandorf, Ohio; Mary, who lives in Glandorf, Ohio; August, who lives in Michigan; Mrs. Henry Hagerman, of Delphos, Ohio; Fronia, who lives with Anton; John, of Kalida, Ohio; Helena, subject's wife; and Edward, who lives on the homestead place, in Ottawa township, this county.

After Barney Henry Maag was married, he bought eighty acres, which is a part of the present farm, and subsequently bought twenty acres from his father and another twenty acres which was known as the "Avenish Farm," and adjoined his previous purchases. These holdings give him a total of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he has entirely remodeled or built new buildings, so that today this farm takes on the appearance of a well-kept, thoroughly-productive farm, being the result of unceasing energy, perseverance, and well-directed management. This land required considerable ditching, draining and fencing, before it was entirely suitable for cultivation and stock-raising and today it is considered highly productive and enables the owner to realize a satisfactory profit from his crops and the live stock he feeds. In addition to general farming Mr. Maag takes considerable interest in live stock, particularly in full-blooded horses, and is

the owner of a Percheron-Norman stallion which is valued at a high figure and which is used for breeding purposes.

Mr. Maag does not take an active interest in any fraternal organizations, nor is he active in politics, but has always supported the Democratic party and firmly believes in the progressive principles set forth by that party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, where they are regular attendants and contribute to the support according to their means. Mr. Maag is a member of the Putnam County German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and, personally, is a man honored and respected by every one in the community that knows him. His acquaintance and friendship is large and socially he is a man well met.

WILLIAM RAMPE.

When Dean Swift gave utterance to that immortal passage in his *Gulliver's Travels*: "And he gave it for his opinion that whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together," he paid the highest possible compliment to that large class of intelligent tillers of the soil whose most earnest endeavors are directed toward the effective cultivation of the lands under their charge and care. Under the scientific direction of the government's department of agriculture and the state's equally well-directed efforts along the same line, the farmers of Putnam county, in the present generation, are literally performing wonders in the way of intelligent, effective agriculture and the public benefactor whom Swift foreshadowed in his imaginative way, has been outdone by many, the crop records of the past in this county not only having been doubled—two ears of corn growing where one grew before— but have been trebled, and more, by the careful tillage which the modern farmer has found so essential to the successful cultivation of his acres. Among these signally successful farmers of this section of the state, none have secured better results than many of those of German birth or ancestry in this county, who not only have brought to their important task the best lessons of intensive farming so carefully followed in the old country, but have applied to all their doings those equally valuable traditions of thrift and prudence, so characteristic of the people of the Fatherland. And among this latter class, few in Putnam county

are better known or more popular among his large circle of acquaintances than is William Rampe, a progressive and successful farmer of Ottawa township, to a brief sketch of whose career the biographer is glad to call attention at this point in this interesting review of the lives of the leading citizens of Putnam county.

William Rampe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm close to the town of Ottawa, April 27, 1859, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Nottingbrock) Rampe, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Joseph Rampe was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in 1825 and upon reaching manhood's estate immigrated to America, having become convinced that better opportunities awaited him on this side than he might hope to find presented in the old country. He landed in New York and at once entered upon the exercise of his trade, that of a tailor, in which he had become proficient before leaving Germany. In New York he worked at this trade until he had saved enough money to send back to Germany to secure the passage of his mother and three brothers to this country. Upon the arrival of these other members of his family, the Ramples continued for a time to remain in New York, but presently pushed on further west, locating at Covington, Kentucky, across the river from Cincinnati, where Joseph Rampe continued his trade as a tailor. After a sometime residence there, he married Elizabeth Nottingbrock, who was born in Germany, August 27, 1827, daughter of Henry Nottingbrock, who came to America with her parents at the age of seven years and who died on March 12, 1915, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years, six months and thirteen days. Shortly following this marriage in 1844 Joseph Rampe and his wife joined the German colony in this county, Mrs. Rampe's parents having long been residents of the Glandorf community, where she grew up, and Joseph put in his lot with his father-in-law, with whom he and his wife made their home, helping on the Nottingbrock farm until the death of Mr. Nottingbrock, after which Joseph took charge, gradually paying off the obligations which rested against the Nottingbrock farm, eventually buying the same, which at that time consisted of fifty-three acres. To this he added, as his circumstances grew better, until at the time of his death, at the early age of thirty-seven, in March, 1862, he was the owner of ninety-three acres of well-cultivated land. Joseph Rampe was an industrious man whose ambition was centered in his family and in the hope that their condition in life might be easier than his had been and, at his death, he was sincerely mourned by many in the community in which he had so cheerfully put in his lot. Joseph

and Elizabeth (Nottingbrock) Rampe were the parents of five children, Frank, Henry, two who died in infancy, and William, the immediate subject of this biographical review.

William Rampe spent his boyhood days in Ottawa township, growing up on the homestead farm where he was born. Receiving such schooling as was provided at that period, at the age of sixteen, decided to try his fortunes further afield. With this object in view, he went to Missouri, where for four years he engaged in farming, "working out" to such advantage as might accrue to his labors. Not finding things in that state wholly to his liking, young Rampe returned home and helped on the farm until his marriage, on March 3, 1886, to Anna Catherine Borgelt, daughter of William and Anna (Threasey) Borgelt, who was born on April 29, 1867, on the home place in Ottawa township. An interesting review of the career of the Borgelt family in this county is presented on another page of this volume in the biographical sketch relating to Herman Borgelt, a brother of Mrs. Rampe.

Following his marriage, William Rampe lived for four years in the home of his father-in-law in Ottawa township, assisting in the management of the farm, at the end of which time he bought his present home farm of eighty acres in Pleasant township. This land was all heavily timbered when he bought it at an appraised value of two thousand two hundred dollars. The farm at that time was undrained, there being no outlets for ditches and, in bringing his place to its present excellent state of cultivation, Mr. Rampe incurred an indebtedness of three thousand two hundred dollars, which he has regarded as a good investment. By hard work and close application he has made a good farm of his timber tract, clearing, ditching and otherwise improving the same, and has a good house and all necessary out-buildings. He is now regarded as one of the most prosperous farmers in his neighborhood.

To William and Anna Catherine (Borgelt) Rampe were born two children, Joseph Edward, an ambitious young farmer of Sugar Creek township, who married Emma Buckradd and has three children, Raymond, Anna Louisa Francisco and Ruth, and William Sylvester, who died at the age of **ten months**.

The Ramples are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are devoted to the best interests of that parish, being also active in such other good works as concern most intimately their immediate neighborhood and are very properly held as among the leading people of that section of the county. Mr. Rampe is a Republican, having cast his first vote for President Garfield, and takes an intelligent interest in local politics, though he

never has been included among the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Order of the Reindeer, belonging to Ottawa Lodge No. 516, and takes an active interest in the affairs of that fraternal organization. He is a jolly companion, a kind and loving husband and father, a lover of children, essentially a "home man," and bears a high reputation in his community because of his honesty, frankness and sincerity in all his relations with his fellow men.

JOHN W. HALKER.

One of the best known citizens of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, is John W. Halker. His whole career of more than three score years has been spent within this county. His father came here in 1843 from Glandorf, Germany, located in Union township, and made this county his home the remainder of his life. Mr. Halker began business for himself in 1881, in Glandorf, and has since made this village his home. He has always taken a very active part in the upbuilding of his community.

John W. Halker, the treasurer of the Glandorf Building & Loan Association, was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 3, 1854. He is a son of H. W. and Catherine (Beucher) Halker. His father was a native of Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country when he was about thirty years of age, locating in Putnam county in 1843, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He improved this farm and made it his home until 1860, when he moved to Glandorf and engaged in the grocery and saloon business, until his death, August 18, 1890, at the age of seventy-seven. H. W. Halker was married in this county to Catherine Beucher, who was born not far from Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and died at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in February, 1897. There were seven children born to H. W. Halker and wife, Mary, who died in January, 1891, the wife of Henry Nolte, of Delphos, Ohio; David, of Ottawa; John W., of Glandorf; Catherine, living in Glandorf, Ohio; Matthew; Aggie, the wife of Lawrence Bohn, of Toledo, Ohio; Henry, who died in 1906, having survived his wife, who now lives in Glandorf.

John W. Halker was educated in the schools of Glandorf, and finished his education in Cincinnati. He began business for himself in 1881 by opening a grocery and saloon in Glandorf, and continued in this business, successfully, until 1903, when he disposed of it to his brother, Henry. Mr. Halker helped organize the Glandorf German Building & Loan Association in 1887,



MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. HARKER

and since its organization has been an official, serving as appraiser, a member of the finance committee, treasurer and president. He is also secretary of the Glandorf German Mutual Insurance Association. In addition to this, he is interested in agriculture, and owns considerable land in the vicinity of Glandorf, besides his beautiful home and other property in the village. He has long been one of the leaders in his county and is a man of unquestioned integrity. For four years he served as treasurer of his township, and for twenty-five years was treasurer of the St. John's Benevolent Society, severing his connection with this society in November, 1913. He has been active in the councils of the Democratic party of Putnam county, and has been one of its leaders for many years. He is of a sociable disposition and is well known and universally liked throughout the county. He is a broad-minded and progressive man, and has always been foremost in promoting enterprises which were calculated to benefit his home town or the public at large.

Mr. Halker was married on October 10, 1894, to Lizzie Franke, who was born and reared in Glandorf, and is a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Franke.

Frederick Franke, the father of Mrs. Halker, was born about three miles from Essen, Saxony, Germany, in 1813, and is a son of Ernest Franke. After his mother's death he was brought to America by his father when he was five years of age. Ernest Franke was a blacksmith and operated a shop in Palmer township, on the edge of the prairie, at a time when wolves and other dangerous beasts were still roaming the forests. Ernest Franke was a fine workman and was an expert cutlerymaker. He died when Frederick was about nine years of age at which time the boy was bound out until he was eighteen. At the opening of the Civil War, Frederick Franke enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. After his return he finished learning the shoemaker's trade and became a fine workman. He went to Cincinnati and worked at his trade for three years, in the meantime attending night school. While in that city, he also learned to be a stationary engineer, and upon returning to Putnam county he became the engineer at the woolen mills in Glandorf for several years. However, this close confinement was undermining his health, when he became an agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company and worked for them for fifteen years, at the expiration of which time he resigned his position with this company and became the manager of the lumber yard in Glandorf, retaining this position for ten years. He bought a share in a lumber and planing mill at Kahola in 1907 and two years later was

injured by a machine in the mill and was compelled to retire from active work. He is now making his home at Kalida. Catherine Ellerbrock, the wife of Frederick Franke, was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Dietrich Ellerbrock and wife. Her people came from Hanover, Germany, in 1834, and located at Glandorf, in Putnam county, among the very first settlers.

Mr. and Mrs. Halker are consistent members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and are deeply interested in its welfare, being generous contributors to its support, always punctual in their fulfillment of church duties.

Mrs. Halker's many activities brought her in touch with kind and loving friends. In accord with her husband's interests, she was a devoted helpmeet, a faithful wife and an inspiration to those who knew her. She died in March, 1915.

AMOS WILBUR BEST.

Amos Wilbur Best, one of the leading farmers of Union township, was born in the same township, on the farm on which he still lives, October 26, 1869, the son of John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best, the former of whom was born in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, December 16, 1841, the son of George and Sarah (Wagner) Best, the latter of whom was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 22, 1841, the daughter of Edward and Margaret (Erwin) Nichols.

George Best, grandfather of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the son of John Best and was a life-long farmer. He was reared on the farm in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, on which he was born and acquired such schooling as was provided in that period. He was a stone cutter, a brick mason and a carpenter, which trades he followed in the neighborhood in which he was reared. George Best was united in marriage to Sarah Wagner in 1840, who was born in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Durst) Wagner, both of whom were born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, the latter being of Irish parentage, her brother, James, having been a soldier in the Mexican War.

Four years after their marriage, or in the year 1844, George Best and his wife and their two small children came to Putnam county and settled in Sugar Creek township, buying a tract of land which then was an utter wilderness of unbroken forest. This farm, in due course of time, was brought to a high state of cultivation and here George Best and his wife

reared their family and spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in May, 1874, at the age of fifty-four years, his wife surviving him many years, her death not occurring until in May, 1897. He was a staunch Democrat, took an active part in the political affairs of the county, and had served his township several times in various capacities in public office. He was a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife was a member of the Christian church, and both were ever active in the good works of the community.

To George and Sarah (Wagner) Best were born nine children, John Calvin, to whom reference is made below; Mary A., deceased, was the wife of David Hughes, of Macon county, Missouri; Sarah A., deceased, was the wife of George Holderman, of Newton, Kansas; Emeline, deceased, was the wife of Quincy Goodman, also now deceased, of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Anne, the wife of Sherman Hubert, of Dupont, this county; Jane, the wife of Lenial Sneary, living near Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, this county; Ella, the wife of William E. Nichols, of Grove Hill, Paulding county, Ohio; Arie R., the wife of Hendon Catlett, of Detroit, Michigan, and one child who died in infancy.

John Calvin Best was born in Carroll county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county with his parents at the age of three years. In the schools of Sugar Creek township he received his education and was reared a farmer and carpenter. When little more than a boy, on August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He took part in the battles of Moss Creek, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Duck River, Franklin, Nashville, Fort Anderson and numerous others, and during the latter part of the war, having been injured, was detailed as clerk in the quartermaster's department, under General Schofield, where he received his discharge at White Hall, Pennsylvania, in 1865.

John Calvin Best was united in marriage on January 16, 1868, with Sarah A. Nichols, of Union township, this county, whose father was a native of Licking county, Ohio, and one of the earliest settlers in Putnam county. Further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Best may be found in the biographical sketch of her brother, Amos Nichols, of Union township, presented elsewhere in this volume. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Best lived for four years on a farm in Sugar Creek township and, in 1873, moved to their present farm in Union township. Here they originally had two hundred acres, which was reduced to its present extent of one hundred and twenty acres by the sale of forty acres and the gift to their son of another forty. The line between Sugar Creek and Union township divides this farm,

which is regarded as one of the best in that part of the county. John Calvin Best is a good farmer and is one of the substantial members of the community. Mr. Best is a staunch Democrat, as was his father before him, and for many years has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in his section of the county. He has been township trustee and a member of the county board of agriculture, besides which he has held minor township offices. He and the members of his family are members of the Christian church. He is a member of Ogilvie Post, No. 64, Grand Army of the Republic.

To John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best were born four children, Amos W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Alfred, a farmer of Union township, now deceased; Mrs. Sarah A. Streeter, deceased, and John E., a farmer of Union township, who married Daisy Miller and has one child, Sarah Eveline.

Amos Wilber Best, eldest son of John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best was educated in the schools of his native township and was reared a farmer, remaining on the paternal farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-nine, when he moved to the farm on which he now lives and where he has engaged in general farming with success. Mr. Best is a Democrat and takes an interest in political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

Amos Wilber Best was united in marriage on April 21, 1898, to Mary E. McCrate, daughter of Joseph McCrate, a member of one of the old families of this county, additional details of whose genealogy may be found in the biographical sketch of Edward L. McCrate, a brother of Mrs. Best, which is presented elsewhere in this volume. To the union of Amos Wilber and Mary E. (McCrate) Best, three children have been born, Gerald Pierce, Lawrence, and one who died in infancy. Gerald Pierce Best recently attained a notable bit of distinction by being one of the prize winners in the boys' corn-growing contest in this county, which not only secured to him the award of the prize offered by the William Kahle bank, at Ottawa, but secured for him a place in the delegation of Ohio boy corn growers which was sent to Washington under the state auspices and which received such signal attention at the hands of the President and the department of agriculture. He raised a fraction over one-half bushel more than one hundred and twenty-two bushels of corn on one acre of land on his father's farm, exercising in this fine agricultural exploit a degree of judgment and a knowledge of scientific farming which marked him as a youth of unusual parts. He is a very bright young man and was selected as one of the delegates representing

the boy corn growers of the country to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, at San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Best have a fine home on the main road to Kalida and take an active part in the social affairs of the neighborhood. They are both members of Ben Hur Lodge at Columbus Grove. Mrs. Best, before her marriage, was one of the leading school teachers in Putnam county, having taught for many years in the district schools. She is a member of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and is a highly-educated woman. They have one of the good farms in the county, both in the matter of its soil as well as location, and are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

AMOS C. DILLER.

Whether the elements of success in life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible clearly to determine. The study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this uncertainty. So much in excess of those successes in life are the failures and semi-failures that one is compelled to examine and analyze to find proximate causes. In studying the life history of Amos C. Diller, former school teacher and now a successful tile manufacturer and farmer, as well as poultry fancier, we find many qualities in his make-up that win success. For many years, Mr. Diller was a successful teacher in the schools of Putnam county. Subsequently, he became an enterprising farmer, and, during these years, he has looked after the details of several business enterprises, including a tile factory, and has finally devoted a considerable amount of time to fancy poultry, with which he has also been successful.

Amos C. Diller was born on June 21, 1871, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John G. and Elizabeth (Schumacher) Diller. John G. Diller was also born in Riley township, February 21, 1841, the son of Peter and Barbara (Suter) Diller. Peter Diller was born about 1813, in Alsace-Lorraine, and was the son of Christian Diller and wife, the former of whom was a farmer.

Peter Diller came to America at the age of fourteen with his mother and elder brother, John, the father having previously died. They arrived in America about 1827, and settled first in Holmes county, but some time

later came to Putnam county. They settled in Riley township, where Peter Diller entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 26. This became the old Diller homestead. He later added other lands until he owned three hundred and twenty acres.

When Peter Diller settled in Putnam county, he was unmarried. He first entered his land, built a log cabin, and, about a year later, was married to Barbara Suter. He took up his residence on the new homestead when all of his worldly goods consisted of one horse and a wagon and a few supplies with which to begin his battle with the wilderness. His were the common experiences of the pioneers. He and his wife suffered all of the privations and hardships incident to such life. He was compelled to go either to Perrysburg or Tiffin to mill, such trips taking several days. Peter Diller and wife had eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of whom lived to maturity, with the exception of one son, Christian, who died at the age of sixteen years. They were Christian, Adam, John, Magdalena, Benjamin, Peter, Mary and David.

John G. Diller, the father of Amos C., grew up on the old homestead. He attended the typical log cabin school, and helped his father clear the land. When he was ten years old, his father built the house which still stands. Two years later, in 1853, he built the barn which is also in a splendid state of preservation.

When John G. Diller was twenty-seven years old, he was married to Elizabeth Schumacher, the wedding taking place on March 14, 1868. She was born on March 15, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, and who is the daughter of John and Barbara (Steiner) Schumacher. John Schumacher was the brother of Peter Schumacher, who was the father of sixteen children, among whom was Christian P., the life-story of whom is told elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage, John G. Diller remained on the old place. He took a trip to California for his health and died there on March 7, 1908. He led a very active life and was engaged as a general farmer, having been quite successful in this vocation. He was a Democrat and served as school director for a number of years. He was a member of the Mennonite church. John G. Diller and wife had nine children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. The others were William, Amos, Bertha, Levina, Noah, Lena, Elmer and Sarah, all of whom are now living and all married except Bertha. Mrs. John G. Diller died on April 1, 1881.

Amos C. Diller was born on the old homestead of his father and grandfather and here grew to manhood. He first attended the old district school, No. 6, and later district No. 10. After finishing the common schools,

he took three terms of work at the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, Indiana, and then attended the Bluffton high school the next winter. The following winter he taught school and the summer following this had special normal work in Findlay College. After this, for about ten years, he continued teaching, and then took a teacher's summer course at Bluffton College, after which he taught again. Altogether, Mr. Diller taught ten years.

When twenty-seven years old, he was married to Lena Schumacher, the marriage taking place on September 25, 1898. She was born on January 24, 1875, in Richland township, Allen county, and is the daughter of John and Barbara (Geiger) Schumacher. John Schumacher was a son of Christian Schumacher. He was one of the strongest men, physically, in this part of the state. He was born on August 5, 1849, and died on November 7, 1907. His wife, who was Barbara Geiger before her marriage, was born on October 1, 1855, and died May 3, 1897. They had thirteen children, Lena, Susan, Mary, Peter, Elias, Gideon, Lizzie, Jesse, Salome, Martha, John Adam and Minnis, the two latter being deceased.

Amos C. Diller continued to teach for four years after his marriage and then located on the farm of David Diller, which was originally a part of Peter Diller's estate, and which Amos C. Diller purchased from Ferdinand Reichenbach. This farm he still owns and here he lives today.

In addition to farming, Mr. Diller has been engaged in the manufacture of tile for about twenty years, being associated with his uncle, Benjamin Diller, and his brother, William. This concern does a large and lucrative business, and for the past eight years Amos C. Diller has owned and operated this business alone.

In addition to his other activities, Mr. Diller is an expert breeder of Rose Comb Rhode Island Red poultry. He has taken first prize on this breed at Bluffton, Lima, Findlay, Delphos, Pandora and at the Ohio State Poultry exhibit at Columbus. In addition to these prizes, many of Mr. Diller's birds have taken prizes for their owners at other places.

Amos C. Diller is a stockholder and president of the Jenera Merchandise Company, of Jenera, Ohio. He is also a stockholder and secretary of the D. C. Shank Company, of Pandora, Ohio, and is treasurer of the Menonite Mutual Aid Society and Insurance Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. Amos C. Diller, seven children have been born, Orlo, born on August 23, 1899; Bessie, born on September 4, 1902; Edna, born on April 15, 1904; Edison, born on May 26, 1905; Jennie, born on July 14, 1906; Ray, born on April 15, 1911, and Lester, born on August 27, 1913.

Mr. Diller is a Democrat. He is one of Riley township's most interest-

ing and successful citizens, an aggressive and alert business man, a successful farmer and a well-informed and valuable citizen. He and his wife and family are members of the Mennonite church.

JAMES MacDONALD.

Putnam county has many residents who have prospered in business. One of her citizens, who has made a notable success in the lumber business, is James MacDonald, who is thoroughly acquainted with his line of business, from the ground up, which fact undoubtedly accounts for much of his success.

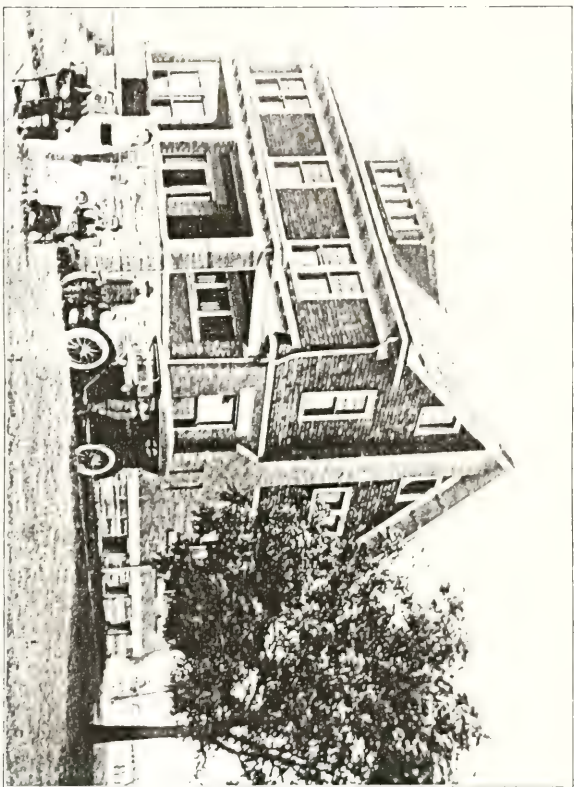
James MacDonald was born on February 23, 1873, in Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of William John and Margaret (McKeen) MacDonald. William J. MacDonald was born in the parish of Killyman, County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1839. His father in turn came from Scotland and was a soldier in the British army, serving in South Africa. By reason of his services as a soldier, he became the possessor of a tract of land in Ireland, and made his home there. W. J. MacDonald was probably twenty-five years of age when he came to America and located at Cleveland, Ohio. He was married in Belfast, Ireland, to Margaret McKeen, a native of Carnoney, near Belfast, County Antrim, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Roberts) McKeen. She lived in Ireland until after her marriage, and before they came to America, one daughter was born, now the wife of I. Pressley Sherrard, living on the MacDonald farm at the north edge of Leipsic.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald lived in Cleveland from 1865 until 1871, where he followed his trade as a bricklayer and stonemason. He came to Putnam county in 1871, and purchased twenty acres of land at the north edge of Leipsic, where he has resided since. Here he continued at his trade and contracted for a number of years. He had a part in the erection of most of the larger brick buildings in Leipsic. While at work on the Methodist church in 1895 he met with an accident in which several bones were broken, which weakened him so that he was compelled to relinquish his life work.

Five children were born to William J. MacDonald and wife, Mrs. Minnie Sherrard, a resident of this county; William J., of Liberty township; George W., a contractor, who died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1911; Alexander, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and James, of Leipsic. The mother of these



MR. AND MRS. JAMES MAC DONALD.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES MACDONNELL.

children died on August 4, 1914, at the age of eighty-three. She was an active supporter of the Presbyterian church, as was her husband. W. J. MacDonald was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Leipsic, and died December 11, 1914, at his home in Leipsic.

James MacDonald grew up at Leipsic and learned bricklaying and stone-cutting with his brother. He worked at the trade about fifteen years, during which time he engaged in contracting. He continued in that capacity until 1908. He also engaged in the retail builders' supply business at Leipsic about the year 1899. He opened up a lumber yard at Leipsic in 1905. With it he combined a line of builders' supplies, and has since continued in that business. Mr. MacDonald has been conspicuously successful and does a very large business in his line.

He built one of the handsomest brick residences in 1912 in Leipsic, where he now resides. Mr. MacDonald was married on May 3, 1893, to Capitola Isabelle Close. She was born between Gilboa and Benton Ridge, in the west part of Hancock county, Ohio, the daughter of Solomon Markley and Sarah Elizabeth (Kindle) Close. Solomon Close was born in October, 1834, in Putnam county, not far from Bluffton, and was a son of Michael and Jane Close. Solomon Close was a farmer until he reached old age and lived part of the time between Gilboa and Benton Ridge. He later moved to Van Buren township, in this county, and now lives in West Leipsic. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for three and one-half years. He was never wounded nor in a hospital. He is now a member of the Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Leipsic, in which fraternal order he takes a great interest.

Mrs. MacDonald grew to womanhood in Putnam county. To James MacDonald and wife eight children were born, three of whom died in infancy. The five living children are Florence Menetta, Lawrence James, Serge R. C., Vivian Beatrice and Evelyn Rose.

Mr. MacDonald is a staunch adherent of the Republican party, but takes no active interest in political affairs, preferring rather to devote all his time and attention to his extensive business interests. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, while Mrs. MacDonald is a member of the Pythian Sisters. Both Mr. MacDonald and his wife are loyal and earnest members of the Presbyterian church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested, and to whose support they are liberal contributors. They are highly respected citizens of their community, enjoying the esteem of a large number of neighbors and friends.

JOHN THEODORE MOENING.

Among the best-remembered successful farmers of the past generation in Putnam county was the late John Theodore Moening. Of this man it may be said that he possessed strong and active sympathies; his temperament was warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense, and these and other characteristics unconsciously drew him an unusual number of devoted friends, upon whom, under all circumstances, he could rely, and who, now that he has passed away from earthly scenes, revere his memory. He was a close student of human nature and comprehended with little effort, the motives and purposes of men, and he was a lover of truth and sincerity. In brief, he is remembered as a manly man, of pleasing but dignified presence, a student of many subjects and an influential man in the circles in which he moved. Of sound character and unflagging energy, he stood as a conspicuous example of the well-developed American, and his position as one of the community's representative citizens was conceded by all who knew him.

John Theodore Moening was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 2, 1867, and was the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Moening, whose life history is given elsewhere in this work, under the caption, "Henry Moening."

Mr. Moening remained on his father's farm near Glandorf, Ohio, and received his education in the neighboring schools. At the age of twenty-two he was married to Matilda Brockman, which event occurred on November 19, 1889. His wife was the daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Lamvehr) Brockman and was born in Fort Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father was a native of Assurbrick, which is not far from Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country alone when a very young man. Having acquired a thorough knowledge of the carpenter's trade in Germany and believing there were good opportunities for a man of his ability in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, he first went there, but later decided to go to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where he farmed for a while and did some carpenter work, then removed to Fort Jennings, this county, where he was employed to build the St. Joseph's Catholic church and which was started in 1852. After completing this work he retired from active work in the carpenter line and went to live on a small tract near town, which he farmed in a small way until the time of his death in 1896, in the eighty-second year of his age. He was a Democrat, but took no active part in these affairs. He was a devout member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church. His wife, Caroline

(Lamvehr) Brockman, was a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on September 25, 1845. She is now residing on the homestead place, near Fort Jennings, this county, and at the present time is in the seventy-ninth year of her age. To their union were born eight children as follows: Joseph, of Fort Jennings; Caroline (Mrs. Reavie), of Ottawa township, this county; Henry, of Dayton, Ohio; Elizabeth (Mrs. Moening), of Glandorf, Ohio; Mary (Mrs. Westfelt), of Kalida, Ohio; Matilda, wife of our subject; Lewis, who resides on the old homestead near Fort Jennings, and Christena, deceased; Josephine (Mrs. Helcamp), of Ft. Jennings, was a daughter by a former marriage.

After the marriage of John T. Moening and wife, he went to live on his farm, which consisted of eighty-two acres, and continued to live on this place until the time of his death, April 6, 1914. When he bought this tract, there were but forty acres of clear land and the rest of it was in heavy timber. A great deal of his time was occupied in clearing the place, ditching, draining and fencing, and today this place is considered one of the most productive small farms in this section. When Mr. Moening was a young man of eighteen he took a great deal of interest in threshing machinery, and having bought himself an outfit of this kind he proceeded to go about the county threshing for the farmers and thus gained a wide acquaintance and was generally known to be absolutely upright and fair in his dealings, and had the respect and high esteem of everyone who knew him. The direct cause of his death was cancer of the liver, from which he was a quiet and patient sufferer. His attending physician constantly warned him of the danger and repeatedly told him that he had but a short time to live, nevertheless he kept the true facts, pertaining to his condition, from his wife and family and always appeared before them with such a cheerful manner that they little suspected his grave physical condition.

To Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Moening were born five children, as follow: Levina (Mrs. Louis Schroeder), who lives on a farm in Pleasant township, this county; Adaline (Mrs. Arnold Schroeder) who lives in Pleasant township and has a son, Harold; Amanda, Clarence and Hilarious, who live at home with their mother.

Mr. Moening was not an aggressive politician in his day, but at one time was a member of the board of school directors. He was a Democrat and at all times stood for the progressive methods proposed by that party. The entire family were regular members of the Catholic church and Mr. Moening was a member of the board of church trustees for four years.

Personally, he was a man of broad ideas and ever alert to lend any assistance he could toward all meritorious propositions that purported to be to the best interests of the community, and on account of his wide acquaintance and familiar figure in important gatherings, his death will always be keenly felt by every one who knew him.

JOHN W. MEYER.

One of the best-known young farmers and stock dealers in Putnam county is John W. Meyer, whose attractive place in Union township is the subject of admiring attention on the part of travelers on the highway which leads past the place, and whose stable of full-blooded Belgian horses is known far and near throughout the county. Mr. Meyer is one of the younger generation of farmers who are taking advantage of all the latest research along agricultural lines and in consequence has one of the best-kept and most productive small farms in his part of the county. He is alert in all that pertains to his business, for he is a farmer who looks upon farming as a real business and not a mere haphazard strewing of grain, and holds a high place in his community. His progressive methods certainly entitle him to mention among the men of enterprise in Putnam county and the biographer finds pleasure in presenting, at this point, a brief outline of the salient points in his career.

John W. Meyer was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on Christmas Day, 1887, a son of John B. and Catherine (Smith) Meyer, both of whom were born in Ottawa township, in the same county.

John B. Meyer, who is now living a retired life in the city of Ottawa, the county seat of Putnam county, is the son of George Meyer, a former well-known and influential farmer of Union township, this county, who came to this country from Germany, first settling on a farm near Glandorf, this county, where he married and where his children were born, and where he lived until the death of his wife, after which he bought a farm in Union township, the place at present owned and occupied by his son-in-law, Joseph Unverfurth, where he spent the rest of his life. George Meyer and his wife were the parents of the following children: John B., Joseph, Elizabeth, Theresa, Katherine and Caroline, all of whom were brought up in the Catholic faith.

John B. Meyer was reared on the paternal farm and was educated in

the nearby school at Glandorf. Until his marriage to Catherine Smith, whose parents were among the early settlers in Putnam county, he lived on his father's farm, but previous to his marriage had bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ottawa township, to which he moved upon his marriage, and rapidly brought it to a good state of cultivation. He lived there for about twenty years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres on section 17, in Union township, on which he erected as fine a set of farm buildings as there was in that part of the county at that time. His dwelling house was large, roomy and comfortable, substantial in every detail, and the farm buildings were in keeping with the same. The barn, which Mr. Meyer erected at that time, was for many years a veritable landmark in that section, its peculiar style of architecture attracting general attention, it being built in circular shape and was regarded as one of the finest in the county. Mr. Meyer lived on this place for about fourteen years and then sold that part of the farm containing the house and farm buildings, comprising forty acres, to his son, John W., who now lives there. He then purchased a home in Ottawa and moved to the county seat, where he is now living in comfortable retirement from the activities of life, enjoying the fruits of his earlier days of industrious application to the business of the farm. About twenty years ago Mrs. Meyer, mother of the immediate subject of this sketch, died, and Mr. Meyer took to himself a second wife, marrying Catherine Hark.

To John B. and Catherine (Smith) Meyer were born four children, as follow: Mary, who married Michael Donnersbauch and lives on a farm near St. Clair, Michigan; August, who married Laura Erhart and lives in the town of Glandorf, this county; John W., the subject of this sketch, and Frederick, who married Susan Sleeter and lives in Ft. Jennings, this county.

John W. Meyer was reared on the paternal farm, attending both the district school of that neighborhood and the school at Glandorf. He married Josephine Dangler on July 8, 1913, daughter of Edward and Margaret Dangler, both natives of this state, who, after their marriage, located on a farm near Ottawa, this county, later moving to Defiance, Ohio, where they lived for ten years, at the end of which time they moved back to Putnam county, locating on a farm in Union township, on which they still live. They are the parents of three children, Josephine, Alva and Genevieve, all of whom are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, with which Mr. Meyer also is connected.

On his small, but highly-cultivated farm Mr. Meyer is obtaining ex-

cellent results. In connection with his work of general farming he is deeply interested in the raising of full-blooded Belgian horses and is developing this branch of his operations into a very well-defined business. He gives close attention to the general public affairs of his community and is regarded as one of the coming men of advanced thought in farming lore in that part of the county. He is one of the directors of the Mutual Telephone Company at Kalida. He and his wife take an active part in the social affairs of the neighborhood and are very popular among their large circle of acquaintances.

SHERMAN A. WILKINS.

Among the enterprising farmers and citizens of Putnam county, none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than Sherman A. Wilkins. He has long been actively engaged in farming in Putnam county and the years of his residence have but served to strengthen the feeling of admiration on the part of his fellow men. He has led an honorable life in every particular and set a worthy example for the young and rising generation. He is entitled to representation in any work which purports to set forth the achievements of the citizens of Putnam county. He has applied himself very closely to the work mapped out in his life's career and has waited for the future to bring its reward, and today he is one of the substantial men of Putnam county.

Sherman A. Wilkins, one of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, August 24, 1868, the son of Jacob and Harriett (Stover) Wilkins. Jacob Wilkins was born in Licking county, Ohio, April 30, 1837, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Kritsinger) Wilkins, the former a native of Virginia and a pioneer of Licking and Putnam counties.

Jacob Wilkins came from Licking county when four years old, with his parents, who settled in Blanchard township, Putnam county. His father lived in different places in Putnam and Hancock counties and spent the year 1846 in Iowa, returning at the end of that year to Putnam county. Jacob Wilkins spent his youth in Riley and Blanchard townships in Putnam county and here he received his early education. At the age of twenty-nine, he was married to Harriett Stover, in April, 1866. Mrs. Wilkins was the daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Claybaugh) Stover, who were pioneers of Putnam county. Daniel Stover entered land from the government during President

Jackson's administration, in 1827. After Mr. Wilkins's marriage, he lived for eight years in Blanchard township in Hancock county and then moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where he received fifty acres of land from the Stover estate. He later purchased ninety acres. The original farm had contained only two acres that were cleared. This farm of fifty acres had a rude log cabin and no barn. Jacob Wilkins proceeded to clear the land. This work he almost accomplished during his lifetime. He followed general farming and was very successful. He was a Democrat. He died on March 8, 1905, at the age of sixty-eight. His wife died the following November, 1906. She was a member of the Church of God and was a loving mother and a devoted wife. To this union ten children were born, Orpha, deceased, who was the wife of David Fulton; Sherman, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Wesley Neighbarger; Curtis, deceased; William, who died in infancy; Gertrude, who died at the age of fourteen; Della, the wife of Herbert Harris; Callie, the wife of William Hartman; Grover, who married Lou Kissinger; Charles, who is supposed to have been drowned in California in 1914.

Sherman A. Wilkins was four years old when his parents moved to Riley township, Putnam county, and here he spent his childhood, attending the old district school No. 1. After finishing the common schools, he took a special normal course in Leipsic, and then taught school for two terms. Mr. Wilkins was a successful teacher, but was inclined to farming and, after teaching two years, turned his attention to this vocation.

When Mr. Wilkins was thirty-seven years old, he was married to Lydia McDowell, who was born on August 20, 1867, in Licking county and who is the daughter of Philitus and Nancy (Harris) McDowell, who were among the early pioneers of Putnam county. Philitus McDowell was born in Licking county in 1832.

After his marriage, Mr. Wilkins continued to farm the old home place. He has always done general farming and has been one of the most successful men in his community.

Mrs. Wilkins belongs to the Methodist Protestant church. He is a Democrat and has served his township efficiently as trustee. He is a wide-awake, intelligent and progressive farmer, one of Riley township's most valued citizens. He is well and favorably known throughout Riley township and Putnam county, and his reputation for honesty and square-dealing has never been questioned. Sherman A. Wilkins is not only a highly respected citizen of his community, but he is a man of genial disposition and a man who is much admired for his pleasing personality. He is known as a man who "does things."

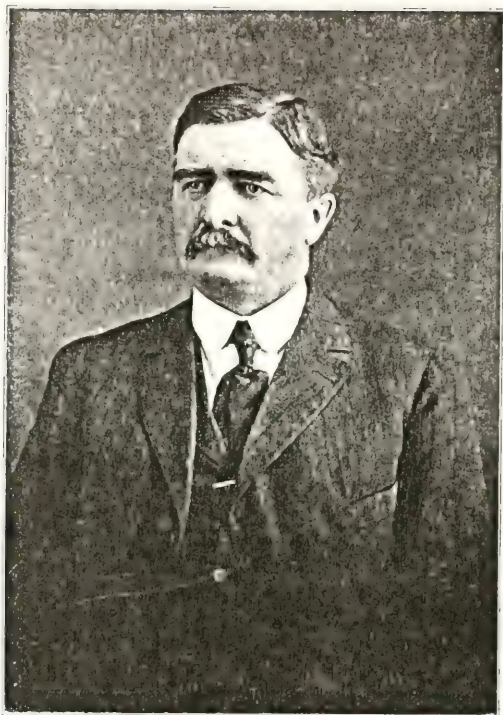
JUDGE JOSEPH MERSMAN.

The present judge of the probate court of Putnam county, Ohio, is Joseph Mersman, who has been filling this responsible position since 1909. A native of this county, he has spent practically his whole life here, and since he was eighteen years of age, he has always lived in Ottawa, with the exception of two years. He started when a young man as a clerk in a general store in Ottawa, and after following this for several years, he engaged in the creamery business and was the manager of the Riverside Creamery, in Ottawa, until his election as probate judge of the county. In the administration of the duties of this office he has exercised great care and sound judgment and his decisions have always been characterized by fairness and impartiality.

Judge Joseph Mersman, the son of Bernard and Julianna (Bockhold) Mersman, was born at Glandorf, in this county, in 1858. His father was born in Hauenhorst, Rheinpfalz, Germany, in 1818, and came to America when he was about twenty-four years of age. The father of Bernard Mersman died in Germany, and a year or so after Bernard came to this country, his mother also came here and made her home with one of her daughters, Mrs. Meyers, in Putnam county, until her death, January 2, 1877, at the advanced age of ninety-six.

Bernard Mersman first located at Cincinnati, Ohio, upon coming to this country, but shortly afterward moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a merchant and one of the founders of the Glandorf Woolen Mills, a factory which was of much importance in the early history of Glandorf. In addition to his store and factory, he also owned a farm near Glandorf, making this place his home until his death, in 1866, at the age of forty-eight. Julianna Bockhold, the wife of Bernard Mersman, was born in Germany, a daughter of John and Katherine Bockhold. She came to America with a relative and went to Cincinnati, later locating in Glandorf, where she met and married Bernard Mersman. To this union the following children were born, four of whom are living, the others dying in infancy, except Bernard and George. Bernard, deceased, George Henry, deceased, Joseph, Frank J. and Katherine, the wife of Samuel Hunchbarger, Mrs. Theasie Goede. The mother of these children died on March 23, 1909.

Joseph Mersman spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, near Glandorf, his father dying when he was but eight years of age. He worked on the home farm and attended the schools of his township until he was



JUDGE JOSEPH MERSMAN.

seventeen years of age, and then went to Kendallville, Indiana, where he worked for one year, after which time he returned to Putnam county, and located in Ottawa, where he has since lived, with the exception of two years. Upon locating in Ottawa he began clerking in a general store and for thirteen years was employed as a salesman. He then engaged in the creamery business and conducted the Riverside Creamery, until he became probate judge. For several years he has been active in the councils of the Democratic party, and in 1908 his party nominated and subsequently elected him as judge of the probate court, and so satisfactory was his service during his first term that he was renominated and again elected in the fall of 1912, for another term of four years.

Judge Mersman was married in 1880, to Anna M. Unterbrink. She was born in Greensburg township, this county, and is a daughter of Ferdinand and Gertrude Unterbrink. Her parents were natives of Germany, and upon coming to this country located in Greensburg township. Mr. Unterbrink was a well-known farmer, a justice of the peace and a county commissioner for two terms. He was prominently known throughout the county. Mrs. Mersman is a woman of unusual attainments, and early in life began to teach in the public schools of this county, and for several years taught in Greensburg, Pleasant, Union and Ottawa townships.

Judge Mersman and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and deeply interested in its welfare.

BARNEY FELTMAN.

In recent years much attention is being paid by the farmers of Putnam county to the breeding of live stock, cattle in particular receiving careful attention in this direction, it having been satisfactorily proved by many farmers that in judicious feeding lies the greatest source of profit. Not only more, but a higher grade of cattle are being raised in this county, many farmers being particularly careful to have none but the best strains on their farms. Among the farmers of Union township who lately have been devoting much care to the breeding of choice cattle, few are better known in this direction than is Barney Feltman. Mr. Feltman is of the third generation of his family in this county.

Barney Feltman was born on a farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 14, 1860, the son of Barney and Louisa (Niese) Felt-

man, the former of whom was born in the town of Glandorf, and the latter of whom was born on a farm in Ottawa township, both in Putnam county.

Barney Feltman, the elder, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the son of Henry and Angeline (Sager) Feltman, natives of Hanover, Germany, who came to America, proceeding to Putnam county, Ohio, where they located in the Glandorf settlement at an early day in that interesting German colony's history. The farm which Henry Feltman wrested from the forest wilderness became one of the most valuable tracts in that part of the county, the site of the present town of Glandorf covering a large portion of it. Here Henry Feltman lived until the death of his wife, after which time he made his home with his son, Barney, in Pleasant township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a man highly honored throughout that section in his day and generation and he and his good wife were among the most influential members of the German colony, which did so much for the early development of that part of Putnam county. Henry and Angeline (Sager) Feltman were the parents of six children, Catherine, Elizabeth, Agnes, Mary, William and Barney, the latter of whom was reared on his father's farm at Glandorf, receiving such education as the schools of that time and place afforded and remaining on his father's farm until his marriage to Louisa Niese, at which time he moved to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Pleasant township, which his father had given him. This he cleared and improved and later added to it fifty-three acres, which he brought to an equal state of cultivation, making it one of the best farms in that township. Barney Niese, father of Mrs. Feltman, was a well-known farmer of the Glandorf neighborhood and lived there until the death of his wife, who was a Laefker, a member of one of the early families of that section, whereupon he moved to the home of his son, Barney Niese, in Palmer township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was left with six children, Louisa, Theresa, Agnes, Anna, Barney and Helena.

To Barney and Louisa (Niese) Feltman were born seven children, as follow: Mary, who married Frank Recker and lives in Ottawa township, this county; Barney, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who married Helena Niermann and lives in Pleasant township, this county; Edward, who married Bernardina Uphaus and lives in the city of Ottawa, this county; August, who married Helena Klemm and lives in Ottawa township, this county; Harry, who married Florence Schmueller and lives in Pleasant township, this county, and Arnold, who married Josephine Klemm and also lives in Pleasant township.

Barney Feltman was reared on his father's farm in Pleasant township, receiving his education in the public schools of that township, and remained

there until his marriage in 1890, after which he lived for a time on a rented farm nearby and then bought a farm of forty-four acres in the same township, which he later sold and bought eighty acres in sections 7 and 18, in Union township, later buying twenty-five acres in the corporation bounds of the town of Kalida. He has improved his farm in fine shape, the buildings being of an attractive and substantial character and the land well tilled and brought up to a high state of cultivation.

Barney Feltman was united in marriage on August 12, 1890, to Anna Ricker, daughter of Henry and Louisa (Hermiller) Ricker, prominent resident of Union township, this county, the former of whom was the son of Herman and Mary (Kottenbrock) Ricker, who came from Germany and settled in the Glandorf neighborhood in this county, where they reared a family of nine children, Henry, John, Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, Anna, Herman, Frank and Wilhelmina. Louisa Hermiller was the daughter of Bernard and Bernardina Hermiller, both of whom were natives of Germany, who came to America and for a time lived in the state of Massachusetts, later coming to this county and locating in Ottawa township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were parents of seven children, Louisa, Rosa, William, Mary, Henry, Frank and Philomena.

For a time after their marriage Henry Ricker and wife lived on a farm in Pleasant township, this county, later they moved to a farm in Ottawa township, and, finally, located in Union township. To them were born nine children, Mary, Anna, Elizabeth, Clara, Lucy, Herman, Emma, Ignatius and Caroline. Mary (now deceased) married Henry Ellerbrock, of Ft. Jennings, this county; Elizabeth married Joseph Ellerbrock and lives in Jackson township; Clara married Henry Ricker and lives in Jennings township; Lucy married Benjamin Barlager and lives in Kalida. The others are still unmarried.

To Barney and Anna (Ricker) Feltman have been born four children, as follow: Frank B., born on May 31, 1891; Emma L., born on February 18, 1905, died in infancy; Mary, born on September 6, 1907, and Genevieve, born on April 6, 1909. Frank has completed his course at Cincinnati in automobile engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. Feltman are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and their children have been brought up in the faith, all being devoted to the church's interest and active in the various good works of the parish. Mr. Feltman is a Democrat and takes deep interest in matters relating to local government, being regarded as one of the leaders of the party in that part of the county. He has served his township in the capacity

of assessor and is one of the directors of the Mutual Telephone Company at Kalida. Mr. Feltman is a good farmer and an excellent judge of cattle, taking much pride in his fine herd of full-blooded Shorthorns, to which he gives much attention and which he has found a very gratifying source of profit. He is pleasant in his dealings with his neighbors, courteous to all and is one of the popular men in his section of the county.

GIDEON C. STEINER.

It is a well-attested fact that the greatness of a community of state lies not in the machinery of government nor even in its institutions as much as in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens. In his capacity for high and unselfish efforts and his devotion to the public welfare, Gideon C. Steiner has conferred honor and dignity upon his community and as an elemental part of history, it is fitting that there should be recorded a resume of his career with the object in view of noting his connection with the advancement of one of the most flourishing and progressive sections of the great commonwealth of Ohio, as well as his official relation with the administration of educational affairs of the township honored by his residence.

Gideon C. Steiner was born in Riley township, Putnam county, October 23, 1864, the son of Christian and Magdalene (Lugibihl) Steiner, whose family history is found in the sketch of David C. Steiner, a brother of Gideon C.

Gideon C. Steiner was a regular attendant at the old Elm Center school, and he grew to manhood on the old home place. After finishing the common schools, he took a normal course at the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada. Later, he did special work at Leipsic, and also special normal work at the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana. Upon finishing his education, he taught school in Putnam and adjoining counties for eight years. Gideon C. Steiner was considered a successful teacher and many of his friends believe he would have risen high in the ranks of this profession had he continued a teacher.

At the age of twenty-four, on November 1, 1888, Mr. Steiner was married to Mary A. Baumgartner, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Althause) Baumgartner, the former a native of Adams county, Indiana, having been born near Berne, and the latter of Wayne county, Ohio. Daniel Baumgartner was the son of Chris-

tian Baumgartner and wife, who were natives of Switzerland, and who settled in Adams county, Indiana, in an early day. In addition to being a farmer, Christian Baumgartner was a minister of the Mennonite church. He was the fourth child of his parents and grew up in Adams county, Indiana. He was born on December 3, 1844. After his marriage, he moved to Wayne county, Ohio, and here lived for a short time. He then removed to Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and after several years, returned to Adams county, Indiana, finally removing to Bluffton, which was his last residence. He was originally a farmer, and in addition to this, he learned the shoemaker's trade, which business he followed later in life, conducting a retail shoe business in Bluffton. Daniel and Elizabeth Baumgartner had five children, Mary, the wife of Mr. Steiner; Joel, of Salem, Oregon; Albert, of Bluffton, Ohio; Elmer W., who died at Leipsic, Ohio, in 1911, and Lucy, who died in infancy. Elizabeth Althause, Daniel Baumgartner's wife, was the daughter of David and Mary (Kirchholfer) Althause, who were natives of Switzerland, and who came to America at an early date. Elizabeth Althause was born on March 16, 1839, and died in November, 1886.

After his marriage, Gideon C. Steiner taught school for three years. Later he began farming for himself when he rented a farm of eighty acres from his father, three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora. A few years later he purchased this farm. After teaching school for three years, he devoted all of his time to farming. He has always done general farming and has been very successful in this vocation. When he removed to his present farm, it had few improvements, there being only a one-roomed log cabin and a log stable. Mr. Steiner has drained the land and has succeeded in clearing all but five acres. In addition, he has built a good eight-room, modern house and a large, commodious barn with other outbuildings in keeping with the surroundings. Today he has one of the finest farms in Riley township.

Gideon C. Steiner and wife have been the parents of eleven children, Orville Edison, born on October 20, 1889, who is a student at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Edna E., born on January 1, 1891, and died on August 4, 1913; Myron, born on November 8, 1892, and died on February 28, 1901; Lillian, born on July 12, 1894, and died on October 8, of the same year; Olga, born on August 14, 1895; Zella, born on September 8, 1897; Armin, born on January 28, 1899; Clayton, born on November 16, 1900; Lysle, born on October 4, 1902, and died on February 10, 1904; Barbara Grace, born on November 24, 1903, and died on December 27, 1903, and Mary Arvilla, born on August 1, 1906. All of these children have attended, or are at-

tending, the Pandora high school, except the youngest, who attends the local schools.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He has been active in the educational affairs of his township and was a school director for six years. He was also a member of the township school board for seven years. He and his son are members of the Grace Mennonite church, while Mrs. Steiner and the remainder of the family are members of the Missionary church. Gideon C. Steiner is one of Riley township's most substantial farmers. He is well-to-do and is well and favorably known, a man of more than ordinary attainments and, as a citizen, he has done very much for the welfare of the township in which he lives.

EDWARD HILTY.

A man's reputation is the property of the world, for the laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being either submits to the controlling influence of others or wields an influence which touches, controls, guides or misdirects them. If he be honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, investigation will brighten his fame and point the way along with others who follow with like success. The reputation of Edward Hilty, one of the leading farmers and citizens of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, having been unimpeachable from the beginning of his career, according to those who know him best, a critical study of his career would be a benefit to the reader of this volume. His life has been not only one of honor, but of usefulness also.

Edward Hilty was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 15, 1878, the son of Benjamin B. and Susanna (Steiner) Hilty, whose family history may be found in the sketch of Benjamin B. Hilty and of Isaac Hilty, an uncle. His paternal family history is found in the sketch of Peter P. Steiner.

Edward Hilty was born on the old Hilty homestead, one and one-half miles east of Pandora. Here he spent his early childhood and attended the old Steiner district school. At the age of nine years, his mother died, and for about three and one-half years his father kept the children together, after which they were placed with neighboring families. A year before the remainder of the children were placed in new homes, Edward Hilty, who was not yet twelve years old, was sent to live with his grandfather, Peter

Hilty, and his son Samuel. During his residence here, his grandfather died, but he continued to live with his uncle. When about fifteen years old, his father gathered the children together again and they went to live on the old home place. They remained here, with the exception of a few months after the old house burned, until Edward Hilty was twenty-six years old.

Edward Hilty was married on June 24, 1902, at the age of twenty-three, to Martha Sommer, who was born on the old Sommer homestead, one mile north of Pandora, March 15, 1881. She is the daughter of Jacob and Marian (Amstutz) Sommer, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland, born on January 20, 1851, and who came to America at the age of eighteen, settling in Riley township, Putnam county. Here he married Marian Amstutz, who is the daughter of Abraham Amstutz and wife. They had three children, Daniel, Elias and Martha, the wife of Mr. Hilty. Elias died when a youth.

After his marriage, Mr. Hilty remained on the old home place for three years. Finishing his common school education and graduating from the Pandora high school in 1899, he taught the old home school for two years, in the meantime successfully passing the Boxwell examination, which admitted him to the high school. Completing the two-year term of teaching, he took a course at Bluffton College, after which he again taught, with the exception of two years, until 1905, when he left the old home place and moved to Pandora. During his residence here, for a year and a half, he was township assessor and also worked in a store. At the end of this period, he moved back to the old home place and took charge of the farm. In addition to the sixty acres in the old homestead, he rented eighty acres, in all one hundred and forty acres, which he farmed for four and one-half years. He moved to Bluffton in the fall of 1911 where he took special studies at Bluffton College. In the summer, he employed himself at various occupations. In the winter of 1913 and 1914 he taught school in Richland township, Allen county. In the spring of 1914, he moved to the farm of his brother, Albert B., two miles north of Pandora, where he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hilty have four children, Lenora Marian, born on June 30, 1903; Glenn Wingate, born on October 21, 1904; Merwin Otto, born on January 1, 1907, and Alice Susanna, born on March 14, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilty are members of the Grace Mennonite church. He is a Democrat, although he considers himself an independent voter. Edward Hilty is a clean-cut, well-informed farmer and citizen. He is well and favorably known throughout Riley township and almost throughout Putnam county. He is a man of more than ordinary attainments and from the be-

ginning of his career, he has been a man whose counsel and advice have been sought upon many matters. He keeps fully abreast of the times and, during the periods of life when he was engaged as a school teacher, he ranked among the best in Putnam county.

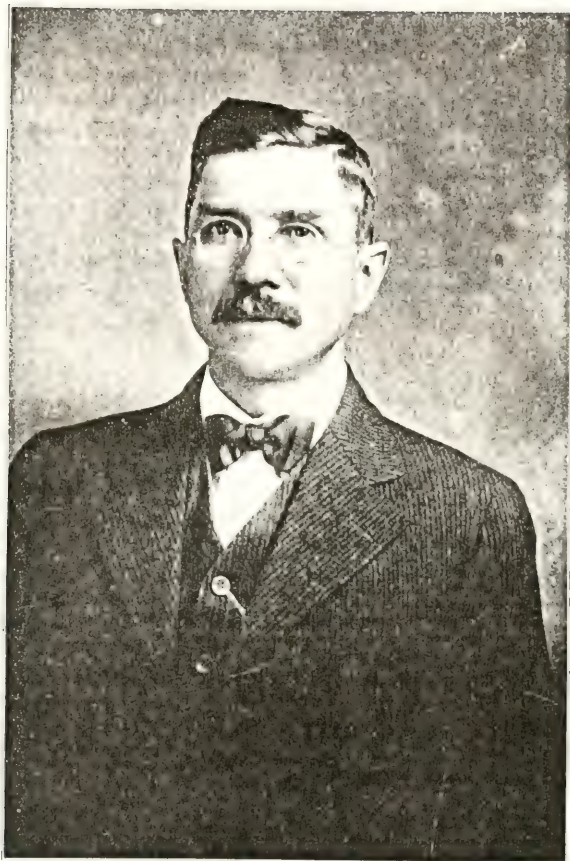
BERNARD A. UNVERFERTH.

The Unverferth family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since the early part of the thirties, when the grandfather of Bernard A. Unverferth came to this county from Glandorf, Germany, at the same time that a colony of his countrymen came to America. Professor Horstman and others had previously come to this county from Germany. Mr. Unverferth has spent his whole life in this county. He taught in the public schools of the county for several years, and, after graduating from the law department of the State University, began the practice of that profession in 1897, and has made this his life work.

Bernard A. Unverferth, the son of Andrew and Katherine (Schumacher) Unverferth, was born at Glandorf, in Putnam county, September 22, 1871. His father was born in this same county, west of Glandorf, in 1840, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth Unverferth, who came here from Glandorf, Germany, and located in Greensburg township, three miles west of Glandorf. Katherine Schumacher, the mother of Bernard A. Unverferth, was a native of Prussia, a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Schumacher, who were also early settlers in Glandorf, this county. Matthias Schumacher was a tailor and Henry Unverferth was a brickmason, as was his father, Andrew, and most of the men of the family. Andrew Unverferth was a cooper, as well as a brickmason, and he and his wife, who are still living at Glandorf, are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living, Matthias, Bernard A., Anna, George, Gertrude, Edward, Dora, Margaret and Francis. One child, Harry, died at the age of nine, and Louis died at the age of thirty-one.

Bernard A. Unverferth graduated from the high school at Ottawa, in 1890, and for the next six years taught in the schools of the county. He then entered the Ohio State University, at Columbus, and graduated in the spring of 1897, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Before this time he had studied law at home, and also in the law offices of Ottawa.

Immediately after his graduation from the University, Mr. Unverferth



BERNARD A. EVERETTH

began practicing, in partnership, with Judges Handy and Ogan. Two years later he and Judge Handy formed a new partnership and have since been practicing together. Mr. Unverferth was prosecuting attorney of Putnam county from 1903 until 1908 and has also held a number of minor offices in addition to being prosecutor. He is chairman of the Democratic central committee, and also of the Democratic executive committee of his county, and a member of the Ohio state Democratic executive committee.

Mr. Unverferth was married in 1900 to Anna Berheide, who was born at Fort Jennings, in this county, and is a daughter of Henry and Anna Berheide, natives of Germany, and early settlers in Putnam county, where they spent their lives on a farm. Mr. Unverferth and his wife have one son, Elmer, who is now thirteen years of age. The family are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Unverferth is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

ALBERT SCHUTZ.

It is pleasant, and profitable as well, to contemplate the career of a man who has won a definite goal in life, whose career has been such as to command the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such, in brief, is the record of the well-known farmer, and stockman, Albert Schutz, himself a native of Switzerland, who has attained prominence and material success in the country of his adoption. He is one of the most popular men in Riley township, where he has lived for many years, and where he has labored, not only for his own individual advancement, but for the improvement of the entire community, whose interests he ever had at heart. Mr. Schutz is a man who richly deserves the esteem which has been bestowed upon him by the citizens of his community.

He was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, January 18, 1859, and is the son of Jacob and Anna (Gruber) Schutz. Jacob Schutz was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, in April, 1820. Jacob Schutz's father was a farmer and cheesemaker, and when Jacob was about twenty-eight years of age, his father died. His mother had died when he was twenty. Prior to this time, Jacob had learned the shoemaker's trade from his elder brother, Christian. He did not follow this trade very long, however. As a youth and a young man, he worked at his trade and helped his father on the farm, where he remained up to the time of his marriage. Jacob was one of eight children, five sons and three daughters. The eldest son was Christian, who

remained in the canton of Berne all his life, as did all the others, with the exception of Jacob, Jr.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., was married, when about twenty-eight years of age, to Anna Gruber, who was also born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, in April, 1822. She was the daughter of Samuel Bruber and wife, both natives of the canton of Berne, Switzerland. The former was a cabinetmaker by trade. Anna had one brother, whose name was Samuel, and who was a cabinetmaker. After Jacob Schutz was married, he rented a farm in the canton of Berne, and it was on this farm that Albert A. and his brother John, referred to elsewhere in this volume, were born, as well as the three eldest children.

When Albert Schutz was five years old, his parents moved to Neuchatel canton, Switzerland, on the Swiss-French frontier. Here they lived until 1885, and here the remainder of the fourteen children were born. Elizabeth resides in Indiana; Jacob died in infancy; Jacob, the second, also lives in Indiana; Gottfried died in 1903, in Switzerland; Albert is the subject of this sketch, John is referred to elsewhere in this volume, Anna came with her husband, John Zumbach, to America, but returned to Switzerland; Mary died at the age of two; Louisa lives at Pandora; Andrew died in infancy; Emile lives in North Dakota. There were three boys, also, who died in infancy.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife came to America in 1885, and settled first in Allen county, Ohio, where they remained one year, and then moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life on a farm. The farm is located near Lafayette. Here he died at the age of seventy-five years in 1895. After his death his wife, Anna, spent the remainder of her life with her daughter, Mrs. Louisa Suter, at Pandora. She died in 1901.

Albert Schatz, at the age of twenty, came to America, in 1879, coming direct to Riley township, Putnam county. Here he obtained work in a stone quarry in the summer time, and worked at ditching in the winter. He followed this employment for five years, when he was married at the age of twenty-five.

Mr. Schutz was married to Elizabeth Geiger, January 17, 1884. She was born in Allen county in June, 1861, and is the daughter of Christian and Anna (Thut) Geiger, who were pioneers of Allen county. To this happy union one child has been born, Mary M., who was born on October 22, 1885, lives at home. Mrs. Schutz died, July 20, 1887, after a lingering illness.

Two years later Mr. Schutz was married to Sarah Bixler, November 12, 1889. She was born in Riley township, Putnam county, September 29, 1863,

and is the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Weity) Bixler. The former was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, born in 1831. He died in Riley township, Putnam county, in 1886. The latter was born in Wayne county, April 14, 1832, and died at Mr. Schutz's home, May 6, 1912, at the ripe old age of eighty. Jacob and Barbara Bixler had but two children. The eldest, Mary, is the wife of Mr. Schutz's brother; John A., the youngest child, is Albert A.'s wife.

By his second marriage, Mr. Schutz has been the father of eight children. J. Raymond was born on August 3, 1890. He is a graduate of Otterbein University, class of 1914, and is now principal of the Pandora high school; Elizabeth was born on December 18, 1891; Walter was born on August 9, 1893. He is a student at Otterbein University; Bertha was born on June 21, 1896. She is a senior in the Pandora high school; Edmund was born on May 26, 1898. He is a junior in the Pandora high school; John P. was born on September 12, 1900. He is a freshman in the Pandora high school; Albert was born on November 22, 1902. Another child died at birth.

After his marriage to Sarah Biler in 1889, Mr. Schutz took up his residence on the Stuter farm, of a hundred and twenty acres, two miles of Pandora. This farm he purchased at this time. It had an old adobe house, and a forty by seventy foot frame barn. About seven years later, in 1896, Mr. Schutz built a beautiful modern brick residence of eleven rooms, and in 1910, he enlarged and remodeled his barn. He built a cattle shed in addition, thirty by eighty-one feet in 1914. These, with other buildings and improvements in keeping with the surroundings, make one of the finest improved farms in Putnam county.

Mr. Schutz purchased the Lehman farm of eighty acres adjoining his farm on the east in 1903, which gives him a total of two hundred acres. The land is unsurpassed, for fertility and productiveness, anywhere in Putnam county. Mr. Schutz has always done general farming and stock feeding and is an extensive raiser of thoroughbred Holstein cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Schutz are members of the Grace Mennonite church, while he is serving as one of its trustees. He is a Democrat, and was a member of the Riley township school board for a number of years. He served in this position during the time the new high school was being erected and completed. He is vice-president and a director of the Pandora Banking Company, and is president of the Pandora Hardware Company. He is one of Riley township and Putnam county's most substantial and progressive farmers; a citizen who is well and favorably known, and a man of exceptionally high standing.

HERMAN W. MORMAN.

Anyone interested in the history of Putnam county does not have to carry on a very great research before learning that Herman W. Morman has long been one of its very active and leading citizens in the agricultural and stock-raising life of this community. For many years he has carried on the business of general farming, gradually improving his valuable place, and his residence in this neighborhood has strengthened his hold on the hearts of the people with whom he has been associated, who esteem him for his integrity of character, kindly disposition and good business ability.

The subject of this review was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township, this county, February 11, 1853, and is the son of William and Gertrude (Wortkotter) Morman. William Morman was born in Germany, November 30, 1822, and came to this country with his parents when he was nine years old. Gertrude (Wortkotter) Morman was a native of Germany, born on January 6, 1822, as also were her parents who immigrated to this country and probably first settled in Toledo, Ohio, but later removed from there to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where her husband first met her.

William Morman's father first settled on a forty-acre tract of heavily timbered, wild and swampy land in Ottawa township, near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, where he underwent the hardships of the pioneer and, besides farming to some extent, drove teams for the canal boats which passed through this section. At the age of twenty-one years Herman Morman's father was married to Gertrude Wortkotter and then bought a farm consisting of eighty acres in Greensburg township, this county, and continued farming for the rest of his life and where he died on January 29, 1908, at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. He was a consistent advocate of the principles of Democracy, though not active in politics, and a life-long member of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio. Mrs. Morman lived to be eighty-three years of age and died on April 22, 1905. To them were born seven children, Frank, Herman, Mary, who is now Mrs. Mary Maas, residing in Custer, Wood county, Ohio, and Mrs. Minnie Maas who resides in Greensburg township, this county; besides those named there were Henry, Katherine and Anna who are deceased, the latter two dying in infancy.

Herman W. Morman was married on September 23, 1875, to Josephine Maag, a daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Pursell) Maag, both natives of Germany, the former immigrating to this country when about twenty years of age, the latter, together with her parents, left their native country

and settled in the city of Cincinnati. Theodore Maag first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was employed in the yards of a boiler-making industry where, after serving three years, he was given work on the inside of the shop. Owing to his small stature the employer found him a convenient worker at riveting boiler sheets. In the old country he had acquired a good knowledge of the wagonmaker's trade which helped him considerably in the boiler works. It was in Cincinnati that he married his wife and then decided to move to Glandorf, Ohio, where he purchased a tract consisting of two hundred acres of virgin timber land and, after clearing it of the timber, devoted his energies to general farming, incidentally doing a little wagon-making and repairing business for the neighboring community. In this particular line of work he was well-skilled and it was always a pleasure for him to furnish first-class material and do the work in a high-class manner. Instead of receiving actual cash for his services in repairing, he would exact a certain amount of clearing to be done on his land. Reaching the age of seventy-three, he died in 1879, after having spent a most useful and reputable life. His wife died on May 1, 1901, after having attained the age of eighty-eight years. Her life was ever one of true devotion and loyalty to her husband and children. To them were born ten children, William, Denia, Frank, Mary, Agnes, Barney, Joseph and Josephine, all of whom are now deceased. The living children are Edward, who resides in Pleasant township, this county, and Meania Brinkman, who lives in Greensburg township, this county.

Henry W. Morman spent his youthful days about his father's farm, assisting in every possible manner to make the work of his parents less arduous, and he was so much needed around the home that little time was found for him to attend the township schools. In those days the knowledge he gained can be credited mostly to his keen observation and constant and careful perusal of newspapers, particularly the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and this is one way by which he acquired a fluent speech in the English language. For about a year after his marriage, he remained on his father's farm, and then located on the present farm consisting of eighty acres, which he afterward purchased. Originally, this entire eighty-acre tract was covered with virgin timber, which he cleared, ditched, drained and fenced, and where he built the residence and made other necessary improvements toward advantageous farming. Besides raising general farm crops, Mr. Morman gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, particularly to hogs, in the breeding and care of which he is very successful.

Herman W. Morman is the father of seven children, Rosa, who died

when eight years of age; Edward, who married Elizabeth Korte, and has five children; August, who married Agnes Brinkman, and has three children; Martha, who married Benjamin Warnecke, and lives on the home farm and has three children; Caroline, who died in infancy; Amelia, single and at home; Hildagard, single and at home.

In a political way Mr. Morman gives his consistent support to the Democratic party, but does not aspire to political office, though he served the people faithfully for a time as a member of the local school board. The entire family are members of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, from which church his beloved wife and helpmate was buried after her death, which occurred on June 27, 1911. Personally, Mr. Morman is a man of pleasing personality, fair and square in his dealings with his fellow men, and full worthy of any trust that may be reposed in him.

CARL REGIL VAN METER.

Men who have attained success in their life vocations are always honored and respected by the community in which they have lived and have accomplished so much. Dearly loved are those who always find time to work in the interests of the community at large. Inspiring others to loyalty and faithfulness. Able men never fail to raise the standard of their community, and the public generally is proud to record the chief incidents of their lives. A well-known farmer of Riley township, who has been the recipient of unique honors, is Carl Regil Van Meter. Mr. Van Meter was elected trustee of Riley township as a Republican, although the township is overwhelmingly Democratic, and he is one of the first Republicans to have been elected to this office in many years. His election is an evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

Carl R. Van Meter was born on October 6, 1882, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of George S. and Hannah (Reeder) Van Meter. George S. Van Meter was born in Monroe township, Allen county, and is the son of James Van Meter and wife, the latter of whom was a Miss Schriver, before her marriage. James Van Meter was born near Mansfield, Ohio, and came to Allen county in the early days, settling in Monroe township. Here he owned over two hundred acres of land. It was here that he reared his family of two sons and six daughters, Susanna, John, Nancy, Mary, Louisa, Rachel, George and Elizabeth. It was on the old homestead here

that Carl Van Meter's father, George S. Van Meter, was reared, and here he secured his education in the typical log cabin school. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-nine years of age, helping his father clear the land. He also worked for neighbors and cleared the forest under contract at the rate of ten dollars an acre.

At the age of twenty-nine, George Van Meter was married to Hannah Reeder, the daughter of William and Hulda (Howey) Reeder. She was born in Monroe township, Allen county. Her mother had come from near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, with her parents in an early day. After his marriage, George Van Meter settled on sixty acres, a part of the old home place, and since that time has added twenty acres to the farm. He has always been engaged in general farming and has very greatly improved his farm. It was here that his children were born. They are as follow: Harley, of Monroe township; Carl R., the subject of this sketch; George Howard, who died at the age of two; Carrie, the wife of Joseph Steele, who resides in Michigan; Ralph, who is unmarried and who lives at Niagara Falls; Clark, who is unmarried and at home; Paul, who died in infancy.

Carl R. Van Meter grew to manhood on the old homestead of his parents in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he attended the district schools and helped his father on the farm until he was twenty-three years old.

Mr. Van Meter was married on March 28, 1906, at the age of twenty-three to Eva Belle Bowers, who was born in Monroe township, Allen county, September 12, 1886, and who is the daughter of Charles H. and Anna (Wright) Bowers. Charles H. Bowers was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, the son of John and Ann (Cook) Bowers. Anna Wright was born in Tuscarawas county, and is the daughter of George and Jane (Holmes) Wright. George Wright and wife came to Allen county when their children were small, settling in Monroe township.

After his marriage, Mr. Van Meter rented the Alfred Mayberry farm, a farm in Monroe township, Allen county, and after one year, in January, 1907, he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, to the old Mark Laub farm, which he rented for three years. It comprised one hundred and seventy-five acres. After this time, he purchased eighty acres, which farm has been his residence ever since. Mr. Van Meter has always been engaged in general farming, but has paid particular attention to the raising and breeding of hogs. He has one of the best eighty-acre farms in this part of Putnam county.

Mr. Van Meter is a Republican. He is now serving as trustee of Riley

township. The fact that he was elected to his present office in a community where the Democratic party is greatly in the majority, indicates his position of high standing in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Van Meter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Pandora. He is a trustee of the church and has served as assistant Sunday school superintendent. Formerly, he was choir leader in the church at Rockport. Carl R. Van Meter deserves to rank as one of the representative citizens, not only of Riley township, but also of Putnam county, where he has lived for many years. He has made a splendid record in the office to which he was elected by the people of Riley township and has thus further established himself in the esteem and confidence of those with whom he comes in contact.

GEORGE A. STAUFFER.

The Stauffer family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1870, when the parents of George A. Stauffer located in Ottawa township. Mr. Stauffer engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the fall of 1907, and then came to Ottawa and engaged in the real estate and loan business, which he has since made his occupation. He has been very active in political affairs and, as a member of the Republican party, has held various positions with it since 1895.

George A. Stauffer, the son of Abraham D. and Annie E. (Sigler) Stauffer, was born on April 14, 1874, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Washington county, Maryland, April 16, 1844, and was a son of Dillon and Mary (Myers) Stauffer, natives of Switzerland. Annie E. Sigler was also a native of Washington county, Maryland, and was a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Vogel) Sigler, who came to this country from Germany. Abraham Stauffer and wife were reared and married in Washington county, Maryland, and lived there until 1870, when they moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and located in Ottawa township. A few years later they moved to Perry township, where Mr. Stauffer engaged in farming and carpentering. A. D. Stauffer was born with but one hand, but when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted from Hagerstown, Maryland, and served four years and nineteen days. During the war he enlisted three times and received an honorable discharge for each enlistment, first from the infantry; second, from the artillery, and third from the cavalry.



W. H. H. H. H.

George A. Stauffer was reared on the farm and received a good common school education in the schools of his home neighborhood. As a youth he learned the carpenter's trade with his father, working with him as a contractor and builder in this county. After his marriage in 1901 he engaged in farming in Perry township and continued in agricultural pursuits until in October, 1907. At that time he moved to the county seat and engaged in the real estate and loan business with B. L. Griffiths. They were partners until in June, 1908, since which time Mr. Stauffer has been conducting the same business alone. He and H. I. Kahle organized the Stauffer Investment and Loan Company in March, 1913, which company has built up a thriving business in a short time. George A. Stauffer purchased the interest of H. I. Kahle, January 1, 1915, and is conducting it alone.

Mr. Stauffer has been a leader in the affairs of the Republican party of his county for more than twenty years. He was elected committeeman for Perry township in April, 1895, and served the central and executive committees of his party continuously until 1908. In that year he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Republican county central and executive committees and the same year was made vice-chairman of the Republican league of Ohio, a position which he still retains. He was elected a member of the state central committee for the Fifth Congressional District in 1912, and was chairman of both committees in Putnam county. He was re-elected to the same position in 1914. He was a member of the board of deputy state supervisors of elections for Putnam county for eight years, during which time he served as clerk of the board for two years.

Mr. Stauffer is president of the Ottawa Gazette Publishing Company, a position which he has held since 1912. He is a stockholder in the Farmers State and Savings Bank of Continental, Ohio. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council. He became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Dupont, when he was twenty one years of age and has filled all of the chairs of that lodge since that time. He is also a member of the encampment and the Daughters of Rebekah. He holds his membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. Stauffer was married in December, 1901, to Grace G. Varner, who is a native of Greensburg township, this county, the daughter of Isaiah and Fanny (Landes) Varner. She lived in Greensburg township until her marriage, and for four years was a successful school teacher in the district schools of her home township. Mr. Stauffer and his wife have an interest-

ing family of five children, Audrey Gail, Annie Mildred, George A., Jr., Lila May and Glenna Naomi.

On February 8, 1915, Governor Willis notified Mr. Stauffer that he had appointed him inspector of oils for the state of Ohio, which position he declined. The governor, however, insisted he should be a member of his cabinet and held the position open for two weeks, urging him to take it, to show the appreciation of his assistance in the campaign. Mr. Stauffer, not wanting any political appointment, declined, and the governor released him with an acknowledgment of the full appreciation of his services, with the mutual understanding that Mr. Stauffer was not in politics for revenue, but for the benefit of his state and party.

ELMER E. BRACY.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression on the life of the locality where they live, no one has achieved a larger measure of success than Elmer E. Bracy. Mr. Bracy has spent his entire life in Putnam county and the people have had an opportunity to know every phase of his character. That he has been true to life in its every phase is manifest by the esteem and regard in which he is held by all those who know him. He has won success by his own honest endeavor and indomitable energy, and has placed himself in the front ranks of the farmers of his community, by exercising these splendid qualities. Mr. Bracy has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and achieved marked success in agricultural affairs. He has won for himself a name, which all men who know him, delight to honor.

Mr. Bracy was born on January 17, 1870, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John C. and Esther (Harris) Bracy.

John C. Bracy was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, in 1849, the son of John Bracy, Sr., and wife. The family history of the Bracys may be found in the life-story of Isaac Bracy, an uncle of Elmer E. Bracy, elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. John C. Bracy died in May, 1912.

Elmer E. Bracy was born on his father's old homestead, about two and one-half miles southwest of Gilboa. Here he spent his childhood and youth, and here he attended the old district school No. 2. After finishing school, he helped his father to clear up the old home place. He remained with his parents until he was twenty years old.

At this time Mr. Bracy was married, May 1, 1890, to Sarah Helen Buckland, who was born in Blanchard township, April 25, 1874. She is the daughter of Lewis and Mary (Agner) Buckland and her family history is to be found in the sketch of Elah Buckland, her uncle, contained elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Bracy was one of seven children born to her parents, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are Sarah, Melvin, Nettie, Clyde and Della. Mrs. Bracy's parents are both deceased. Her father died in February, 1912, and her mother died in September, 1898.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bracy, eight children have been born, Flo Z. May, born on June 8, 1891, and died on February 27, 1893; John Lewis, born on October 31, 1893; Roxie Marie, born on December 6, 1895; Gladys Jemina, born on February 14, 1897; Mayer Caroline, born on February 17, 1903; Brema Mildred, born on June 5, 1907; Ruby Lucile, born on April 6, 1913; Sadie May, born on April 11, 1915.

After his marriage, Mr. Bracy worked for the neighboring farmers during the first year, but the following year he rented land of Duff Bracy in Riley township and, subsequently, rented his father's old home place. After operating this farm for one year, he moved to forty acres of his father's land, three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora. This farm has been his residence ever since. He purchased this place from his father and also purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Laketfield township, Saginaw county, Michigan. Mr. Bracy has always been engaged in general farming and has enjoyed more than an ordinary success in this vocation.

Mr. Bracy is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Bracy attend the Radical Brethern, of which Mrs. Bracy is a member. Elmer E. Bracy is one of Riley township's progressive farmers. He comes from one of the best families of Putnam county, of old pioneer stock, and he is well and favorably known for his sterling integrity and genial disposition.

ISAAC ZUERCHER.

The Swiss people may justly lay claim to the exertion of a greater influence on the world along lines of citizenship and the development of individual independence than has been exerted by the people of any other nation of their size. The rugged nature of their fatherland and their constant communion with the grandest scene beauties of the world has fostered in the people an independence and loftiness of thought and action such as was

exemplified by their national hero, Andreas Hofer. It is probable that from no country in the world have come such intelligent and thoroughly desirable citizens as have been welcomed by the United States on their arrival from Switzerland. In this respect Putnam county, Ohio, has been indeed fortunate, for many of the immigrants from the rugged and mountainous republic of Switzerland have settled in this county where they have reared families, the members of which are now ranked among Putnam county's ablest citizens. Not the least of these families is that of Isaac Zuercher, which came to this country during comparatively recent years.

Isaac Zuercher was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, August 14, 1800, a son of Isaac, Sr., and Anna (Geiger) Zuercher. Isaac Zuercher, Sr., was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, October 7, 1826, both his parents having been natives of Switzerland.

Isaac Zuercher, Sr., was a carpenter by trade and, while in Switzerland, worked at making furniture. He also worked to some extent on a farm in that country. There he married Anna Geiger, who was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, a daughter of Peter and Marion Geiger, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. To Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Zuercher, Sr., were born thirteen children, as follows: Marian, deceased, who was the wife of Fred Geiser of Wayne county, Ohio; Daniel and Samuel of Adams county, Indiana; John, of Wayne county, Ohio; Peter, of Allen county, Ohio; David, of Wayne county, Ohio; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; Christian, who lives in Wayne county, Ohio; Jacob, who lives in Columbus Grove, Putnam county; Anna, deceased, who was the wife of Peter Welty, of Pandora; Barbara, the wife of Fred Hammi, who lives in Adams county, Indiana; Lena, the wife of Emil Kuntz, of Los Angeles, California; Eliza, the wife of George Eisenbeck, of Pandora.

Anna Geiger, mother of Isaac Zuercher, died in Switzerland on September 17, 1869. Her father, Peter Geiger, was a farmer and was also a watchmaker by trade. He died when his son Isaac was seven or eight years old, his wife surviving him for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Geiger had one son, Christian, and two daughters, Barbara and Anna. Christian and Barbara came to America.

Isaac Zuercher was twelve years of age, when, after his mother's death, his father and nine children came to America and settled in Wayne county, Ohio. For about two years after their arrival the children were placed with relatives, while their father worked at his trade as a carpenter. He then went to Adams county, Indiana, where he married again, his second wife being Mrs. Elizabeth (Springer) Amstutz. She had several children and

owned a farm in Adams county. There the subject's father lived during the remainder of his life, and there he died at the ripe old age of nearly eighty-eight years, the date of his death having been on October 2, 1914.

Isaac Zuercher was twelve years of age at the time of his arrival in America, and he went at once to live with his cousin, Christian Zuercher, the fathers of both of whom were half brothers, on a farm in Wayne county, Ohio. There he attended school until he was seventeen years of age, after which he worked on the farm until he was twenty-one years old. He then went to Missouri, stopping on his way in Berne, Indiana, where he spent six weeks. He located first in Moniteau county, Missouri, where he hired out to a farmer for two years.

He married Mary Garber on January 24, 1884, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 26, 1864, a daughter of Christian and Barbara (Hostetter) Garber. Mrs. Zuercher's parents were born in Wayne county, Ohio, and their parents were natives of Switzerland, having come to America during the early days of Wayne county. Mrs. Zuercher was one of a family of fourteen children, and went to Missouri with her parents when she was one year of age. She grew to womanhood in Missouri and spent her life there until 1884.

After his marriage, Isaac Zuercher rented a farm for a time, and then bought property in Morgan county, Missouri, where he operated one hundred and seventy-seven acres until February, 1901. He then bought eighty acres in Riley township, Putnam county, one mile east of Pandora, where he still makes his home.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Zuercher, as follow: Orpha, born on March 27, 1885, now the wife of Daniel A. Basinger, of Pandora, to whom two children have been born, Naomi and one who died in infancy; Bertha was born on December 30, 1886, is unmarried and lives at home; Lydia was born on December 29, 1888, is the wife of John Diller, of Pandora, and has one daughter, Mildred, and a son, Earnest, born on November 5, 1890, married Ida Kiene and lived in Pleasant township. He has one son, Earl Frank, born on February 18, 1892, married Celia Wensinger. They had twins—one of whom is deceased. Elmer and Ellin, twins, were born on September 26, 1893. Elmer died on September 21, 1910. Ellin married Lula Marks and lives at Pandora. Wilbert was born on November 14, 1897, and Pearl on November 29, 1909.

Mr. Zuercher has always conducted his farm for general farming purposes and has been very successful in his business. He has a fine modern

ten-room residence, a large and commodious barn and other farm buildings fully in keeping with the surroundings.

He is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, but has never aspired to public office. Mr. and Mrs. Zuercher are both members of the Grace Mennonite church and are active in all church work.

Mr. Zuercher is one of Riley township's most substantial farmers. He is highly esteemed and respected throughout his community, both as a citizen and as a neighbor, and is regarded as being one of the foremost citizens of Putnam county.

EMMETT L. BURKHART.

Many citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, have come themselves, or are the sons of men who have come from the good old Keystone state of Pennsylvania, and where they are found in this county they are among the most prosperous citizens. It is a fact that the most venturesome and ambitious people are those who have the courage to make their homes in a new and promising country, and this accounts in a great measure for the splendid prosperity which has come to Putnam county in its history. The fact that its citizens are men of courage and determination, who came here to better their condition, has given this county a citizenship which has made for prosperity in every particular.

Emmett L. Burkhart was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 21, 1884, a son of Levi and Catherine (Parcher) Burkhart. Levi Burkhart was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1822, and died on October 16, 1904. He was a son of John and Sarah (Good) Burkhart, who were natives of Pennsylvania. John B. Burkhart died when Levi was a small boy, and after his father's death, Levi went to live with an uncle.

At the age of twenty-six, Levi married Elizabeth Beyers, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Nancy Beyers. To that union were born seven children, as follow: John V., born on May 12, 1849; Andrew L., born on June 11, 1851; Naomi, born on April 24, 1855; Lydia A., born on October 21, 1858, and who died in August, 1860; Samuel, born on August 28, 1861; Elizabeth, born on December 24, 1864, and Amanda Ann, born on February 26, 1867.

Levi Burkhart migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio in the early days

and settled first in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio, and later, in 1854, came to Riley township, Putnam county, and settled two and one-half miles east of what was then Pendleton, now Pandora, where his wife died.

He married again, his second wife being Catherine Parcher, a daughter of George and Diantha Parcher. George Parcher was a native of New York state and came to Ohio during the early days, having settled near Bucyrus. He served during the Civil War and died while his children were young. His wife was a native of Vermont.

To this second union was born one son, Emmett L., the subject of this sketch, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 21, 1884.

When Levi Burkhart came to Putnam county, in 1854, he bought the Douglas farm and gradually developed it and added to it until he owned four hundred acres, all of which lay in Riley township, except forty acres, which extended into Paulding county. At the time when he settled upon the homestead it was in practically a virgin state, heavily timbered and with only a few acres cleared. He first built a two-room log cabin and a barn, after which he proceeded to prepare his land, working at it from year to year until he had succeeded in getting it nearly all in cultivation.

He operated it as a general farm and met with marked success. He was a member of the Republican party, and was an active member of the Methodist Protestant church, which he attended faithfully. He was a hard-working, honest and upright citizen, and a man of high ideals.

Emmett L. Burkhart spent his boyhood on the homestead, where he attended the district school and helped his father with the farm work, his father at that time having been somewhat advanced in years. At the age of twenty-four, September 4, 1907, he married May Miller, who was a daughter of William and Sarah (Lutz) Miller. William Miller was born in Allen county, Ohio, August 18, 1855, a son of Wesley and Lydia (Steeple-

Miller was a farmer and a carpenter, and was one of the original settlers of the county. He owned a large tract of land, and one of his heirs, a son, had inherited a section of forty acres which he had inherited from his father. On this land he is engaging in general farming and is meeting with marked success in his endeavors.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Emmett L. Burkhart. They are Stanley Milton, born on April 6, 1908, and Edith Eleanor, born on February 14, 1910.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the Republican party, but though he

has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, he has never aspired to public office. Mrs. Burkhart is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pandora, Ohio.

Mr. Burkhart is a keen, progressive farmer and is highly regarded in his community, both as a citizen and as a neighbor.

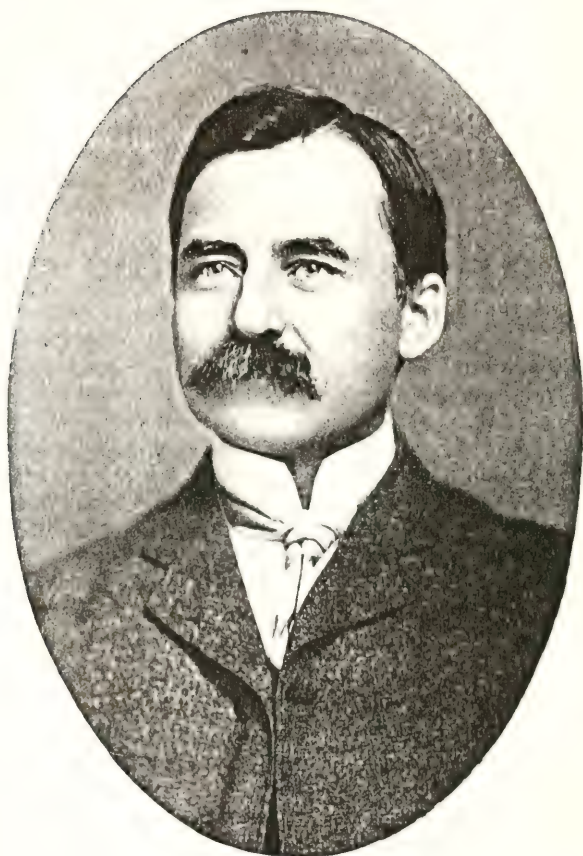
JOHN WILLIAM COTTINGHAM.

A well-known business man, of Leipsic, Ohio, is John W. Cottingham, who has been a resident of this place for a score of years. Born in England, he came to this country when he was six years of age with his parents, and located in Delta, Ohio. Growing to manhood in that city he lived for several years in Deshler, Ohio, and then came to Leipsic, where he has since resided. Since coming to this city, he has installed the present electric light plant and has been engaged in this line of activity ever since. He is a man of unusual energy and ability, and one of the representative men of his city and county. He is a stockholder and director in the Essex Coal Company, of Columbus, of which he is also vice-president.

John W. Cottingham, the son of George Wattam and Elizabeth (Larder) Cottingham, was born in Market Rasen, England, in 1865. His parents came to America in 1871, and with their five children located at Delta, Ohio, where George Cottingham engaged in the manufacture of pearl ash. In addition to his manufacturing interests he was also engaged in farming. George W. Cottingham lived in Delta, Ohio, for the remainder of his life and became prominently identified with the life of the community. He served as a member of the city council and also held various other official positions. He died in 1903.

John W. Cottingham grew to manhood in Delta, Ohio, and received a good common and high school education. He went to Deshler, Ohio, in the latter eighties, and engaged in the manufacture of pearl ash, in that city. After living there for seven years, he came to Leipsic and, in 1896, built the present electric light plant in this place. He has since been engaged in the furnishing of light and power to the city and private consumers of the city.

Mr. Cottingham was married at the age of twenty-three, to Laura Freeman, who was a daughter of James and Julia (Van Swearingen) Freeman, and lived at Delta from the time she was seventeen years of age. She came to Delta from Monte Valley, Missouri, with her mother, who was descended



JOHN W. COTTINGHAM.

from a Revolutionary soldier, Joseph Van Swearingen, and has a certificate, giving the official verification of her descent. Mr. Freeman's father was a native of Ireland, and Mr. Freeman, himself, was a merchant in Missouri, until the time of his death. There were five children born to the first marriage of Mr. Cottingham, Frances Elizabeth, the wife of William Thompson, of Springfield, Ohio; Vivian Louise, the wife of Lloyd Holderman, of Leipsic; Marion Agnes, Warner Van Swearingen and Margaret Joyce, the last three children being single and still living with their father in Leipsic. The mother of these five children died in Leipsic, in 1902, and, in 1903, Mr. Cottingham married Catherine Easton Harrison, who was born in Lincoln, England, and is a daughter of Levi and Elizabeth (Cottingham) Harrison. Mr. Cottingham lived in England until her marriage. Three children have been born to this second marriage, Dorris, who died in infancy; Dudley Harrison, and Phyllis Mary Grace.

Mr. Cottingham and his family have a beautiful home in the western part of Leipsic, where they entertain their many friends with genuine hospitality. He has taken an active part in the civic life of the city and has served on the school board. While living in Deshler, Ohio, he served two terms in the council of that city. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Cottingham is a member of the Knights of Macabees. The Cottingham family trace their ancestry back to old Colonial times, when the first members of the family located in New England. In England, the family had a coat-of-arms, and members of the family in that country still use it.

DAVID HUMMON.

One of the best-known citizens of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is David Hummon, who, for sixty-six years, or during his entire life, has lived in the township of his birth. David Hummon has been influential in the political and civic life of his township, and for many years, served the people of his community in an official capacity, having been identified with the educational interest of the township and entitled today for very much of the credit of the high standard of the public schools of Riley township. As a farmer, David Hummon has been very successful; as a citizen, he is respected and admired by his neighbors; having won a competence in life by his early labors, he is so situated that he may now enjoy the fruits of his early labors.

David Hummon was born on July 1, 1849, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Mary A. (Wyninger) Hummon. John Hummon was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, in 1815. Both John Hummon and his wife were of German descent and came from Wyandot county to Putnam county, in 1832. John Hummon and his wife were married nine years before coming to Putnam county, where they entered one hundred and sixty acres of land and gradually added to their original holdings until, at the time of his death, John Hummon owned fully eleven hundred acres. Throughout his life, John Hummon was an ardent Democrat and was loyal to the Union cause during the dark days of the Civil War and contributed his energies and his money to the support of that cause. John Hummon died on March 6, 1878, in Riley township.

The parents of John Hummon were Simon Peter and Mary (Kerns) Hummon. Simon Peter Hummon was a native of Pennsylvania, a farmer and a distiller of whiskey and applejack. His wife was a native of Holland, who came to America alone, locating in Kittanning county, Pennsylvania, where she met and married Simon Peter Hummon. Six children were born to this union in Pennsylvania, and four more were born after their arrival in Ohio, in all, there were eight daughters and two sons, one of whom was John Hummon, the father of David, the subject of this sketch.

John Hummon and wife were also the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living. They are, Levi, born on December 31, 1837; Adam, born on July 31, 1839; George, born on January 24, 1845; Minerva, born on July 7, 1847; David, the subject of this sketch, and Simon P., born on June 8, 1851; Clara E., born on February 15, 1855; and Ada, born on August 14, 1859, and died in 1888. One son died at the age of thirteen and a daughter at the age of two. The mother of these children died on September 29, 1881. She was a member of the Methodist Protestant church.

David Hummon was born on the old homestead in Riley township, where he now lives. It was the farm which his father entered from the government when he came from Wyandot county, Ohio, and consisted originally of one hundred and sixty acres. The present farm consists of one additional acre. Mr. Hummon attended the typical log cabin school and helped his father clear the land. He remained on the old home place until he was twenty-five years old.

David Hummon was married on February 4, 1875, at the age of twenty-five, to Mary E. Wilkins, who was born on December 26, 1851, in Licking county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Albert and Harriett (Allison) Wil-

kins. Her father was born in Licking county on October 9, 1820, and died in Putnam county, in June, 1890. He was the son of Daniel Wilkins and wife. Harriett Allison was born in New York state, in 1823, and died in Putnam county, in 1893. She was the daughter of Samuel and Bethsheba Allison, who came to Licking county in 1840, where he remained the balance of his life. After his death, his wife returned to New York state, where she died. Samuel Allison and wife had five children, Samuel, Harriett, Rebecca, Isaac and Susan. Mrs. Hummon was one of five children, the others being, Edward M., Daniel F., George R., and Emma R. Mrs. Hummon came from Licking to Putnam county, Ohio, in the fall of 1856 at the age of five years. She was brought to Putnam county with her parents, who came in covered wagons. They settled about two miles south of Gilboa. The old two-roomed log house is still in a good state of preservation. It was on the old homestead that Mary spent her childhood and here she attended the district schools. She remained at home until she was twenty-four years old, at which time she was married.

To Mr. and Mrs. David Hummon, ten children have been born, Everett J., Zoe A., Bertha E., Charles Albert, Maude Velmah, Burl W., Maroa H., Glen Leo, Grover C., and one who died in infancy. Everett J., born on March 19, 1876, married Nellie Schifferly and has had four children, Dwight W. and triplets, Faith, Hope and Charity, who died at birth; Zoe A., born on May 5, 1878, died on August 10, 1879; Bertha E., born on November 27, 1879, married Floyd Foultz; Charles Albert, born on August 21, 1881, married Verna George and has one child, Genevieve R.; Maude Velmah, born on March 11, 1883, is single and at home. Burl W., born on February 4, 1887, died on January 26, 1888. Maroa H., born on February 14, 1889, is single and at home; Glen Leo, born on February 14, 1891, married Ida Amstut and has three children, Nevin B., Marvin D. and Marie E.; Grover C., born on May 8, 1893, is single and at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Hummon continued to live on the old home place. He has always engaged in farming. A few years ago, he made a practice of feeding and raising a great many cattle and hogs, in which occupation he has been very successful.

Mr. Hummon is a Democrat. He has been trustee of Riley township for three years and a member of the school board for several years. He is also a director in the Union Township Insurance Company, where he held this office for ten years. Mr. Hummon attends the United Brethren church, as well as his family, but Mrs. Hummon is a member of the Metho-

dist Protestant church. David Hummon is one of the best known and most popular citizens of the community in which he resides. He comes from an old and highly-honored family and is a progressive citizen, a man of high ideals and in this respect is like so many of his worthy forbearers who have preceded him.

E. D. KOHLI.

The success of a man in raising a high-grade of stock depends upon many qualities, but especially upon good judgment and patience. One of the well-known farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has made a splendid success in raising Percheron horses, and who today is regarded as an authority on this particular breed of horses, is E. D. Kohli. Mr. Kohli is one of the men of sterling worth and strength of character, who have contributed so much to the advancement of the commercial interests of Putnam county. So well known has Mr. Kohli become, as an expert judge of horses, that he was called to serve in this capacity at the Sandusky county fair, both in 1913, and in 1914, at the Wood county fair in 1913, at the Van Wert county fair in 1914, and at the Jay county (Indiana) fair in 1913. Mr. Kohli, himself, has won many prizes and is known as a man who breeds and raises the very best animals to be found anywhere.

E. D. Kohli was born on October 18, 1860, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Barbara (Hilty) Kohli. John Kohli was born in 1807, in Berne, Switzerland, and was the son of Frantz Kohli and wife. Frantz Kohli was a tailor in Switzerland, who came to America, about 1819, with his wife and three children, Elizabeth, John and Christian. All settled in Wayne county, and here Frantz Kohli continued to follow his trade as a tailor. He also operated a farm and lived here for several years. He then moved to Putnam county and settled about one mile west of Pandora. Later, he moved just southeast of Columbus Grove.

John Kohli, his son and the father of E. D., removed with his parents, while still a lad, from Wayne to Putnam county. Here he attended the district school and helped his father on the farm. He was married, first to Fannie Snively, whose parents came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. To this union were born six sons and two daughters, Josiah, Samuel, Elizabeth, Andrew, Isaac, John, Eli and Sarah. John Kohli's first wife died, and he then married Mrs. Barbara (Steiner) Hilty. She had nine children

by her first marriage, Gideon, Mary, David, Peter, Barbara, Isaac, Elias, Noah and Fannie. By this second marriage, five children were born, Christian, Daniel, Emanuel, Adam and Amos. The last two died in infancy. John Kohli lived in a number of places in Allen county, and when E. D. was born, he lived about one mile northwest of Bluffton, in Richland township. He continued to live in this place for ten years. It was here that E. D. Kohli's mother, Barbara, died, when he was five years old. She was forty-five years of age at the time of her death. John Kohli then broke up housekeeping, and the children were placed with different families in the neighborhood. Three years after the wife's death, he gathered five of the youngest children together, Elias and Sarah, born to his first marriage, and Christian, Daniel, and E. D., born to his second, and moved south of Mishawaka, Indiana. Here he located on a farm, but remained there but a few years, when he returned to Allen county, Ohio. He resumed farming, and continued for about two years, when he broke up housekeeping again, and went to live with his eldest son, Josiah. A few months later he died, December 22, 1872.

E. D. Kohli continued to live with his brother until he was fourteen years of age. He then went to live with his eldest half-sister, Mrs. Mary (Steiner) Thut. The following spring he went to live with his cousin, Isaac Hilty, for whom he worked at odd times for a period of six years.

E. D. Kohli was married on December 7, 1882, at the age of twenty-two to Sarah Schumacher, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was a native of Basel, Switzerland, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of Noah Schumacher, contained elsewhere in this volume. His wife was a native of Alsace, and the daughter of Christian Suter.

After his marriage, E. D. Kohli purchased a farm of eighty acres from Jacob and Virgil Stewart. This farm lies three and one-half miles north-east of Pandora, and consists of eighty acres and has been the home of Mr. Kohli ever since. When he purchased this, only forty-two acres had been cleared, but it had a good two-story house, which was destroyed by fire later. Mr. Kohli cleared the balance of the land and built a splendid modern residence of nine rooms, also a large barn, forty-eight by seventy feet, and other outbuildings.

For twenty-five years Mr. Kohli has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Percheron horses, and has been very successful. He has exhibited at the fairs in Putnam and adjoining counties, and has taken a generous share of blue ribbons. He now owns "Roland D.," a three-year-old,

weighing about twenty-two hundred and fifty pounds, upon which he won first prize as weanling stud at the Illinois state fair, Springfield, and also first prize as a yearling stallion at the same fair. He also has fourteen other thoroughbred prize winning stallions, mares and colts.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Kohh have been the parents of ten children, all of whom are living. There are six sons and four daughters, as follow: Aldine, married Susan Geiger, and they have three children, Margaret, Lav Vaughn, and Mandona, the last of whom died on February 20, 1915; Peter married Rose Kiene; Elizabeth is the wife of Clare Green; Edward is unmarried, and lives at home; Homer is a student at Ohio State University, where he is taking an electrical engineering course; Hiram, Susan, Orlin, Martha, and Odula are at home.

Mr. Kohh is a Democrat, but he has never held office, and has never aspired to prominence in political life. He is a member of St. John's Menomone church, and Mrs. Kohh is likewise a faithful and devoted member. Mr. Kohh is one of the community's most substantial citizens. He is a man of high ideals, and worthy ambitions, and deserves credit for the success he has made in life.

EDD. B. SIMONDS.

The Simonds family were early pioneer settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, and the father of Edd B. Simonds was born in the early forties in this county. Mr. Simonds was reared on a farm and has always engaged in agricultural pursuits. In the fall of 1913, he was elected trustee of Van Buren township on the Republican ticket, although his township is normally Democratic. His election speaks well for his reputation as a citizen and attests to his high standing in the community.

Edd. B. Simonds, the son of George W. and Mary E. (Foltz) Simonds, was born in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 13, 1873. His parents reared a family of seven children, four of whom are living, E. B., Wiler W., Mrs. Gertrude Kober, and Mrs. Carrie Shipe.

George W. Simonds, the son of Justice and Lourana Simonds, was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, February 28, 1843, and died June 25, 1908. At the age of nineteen he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which company he served four months. He re-enlisted as a corporal in Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, June 4, 1862, and served with

this company three months. He again enlisted as a corporal in Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in March, 1865, from which company he was mustered out on September 11, 1865.

George W. Simonds was married on March 19, 1868, to Mary E. Foltz, and in the spring of 1870 he moved to what is now known as the "George Simonds Farm" and remained there until the fall of 1902. In that year they moved to Leipsic, where he lived the remainder of his life.

Among other offices, George W. Simonds served as township trustee from 1888 to 1892. He was president of the soldiers and sailors' relief commission for ten years, being appointed by Judge Handy. He was elected a director of the Putnam County Fair board in 1904 and was re-elected in 1907. In the same year, he was elected president of the board and again re-elected in 1908. He was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Church of Christ. In all respects, George W. Simonds was a good citizen, a valiant soldier and a man universally admired and respected on account of his sterling qualities of character. His widow died on February 14, 1914.

Edd B. Simonds spent his boyhood days on his father's farm northeast of Leipsic. He attended the common schools of Van Buren township and later took a normal course of two terms at Leipsic. After reaching his maturity he still remained on the farm and at the age of twenty-five took entire charge of it, his parents moving to Leipsic. He has now been farming the old home place for several years, meeting with excellent success in all of his operations.

Mr. Simonds was married on October 29, 1902, to Jennie V. Baughman, and to this union three sons have been born, Alton, Clare and Robert, all of whom are still at home and now attending the public schools.

Mrs. Simonds was born just east of Leipsic, July 15, 1879, and is a daughter of Frank and Mollie Baughman, both of whom were born and reared in Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Baughman were the parents of three children, George, who married Myrtle Peckenpaugh, and had one daughter; Jennie, the wife of Mr. Simonds, and Delia, who is single and still living at home.

Mr. Simonds has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party since reaching his majority, and is now filling the important office of township trustee, to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Leipsic, while his church relations are with the Church of Christ, his wife also being a member of this denomination. Mr. Simonds is a wide-awake and energetic citizen and deeply

concerned with the general welfare of the community, where he expects to spend the remainder of his life.

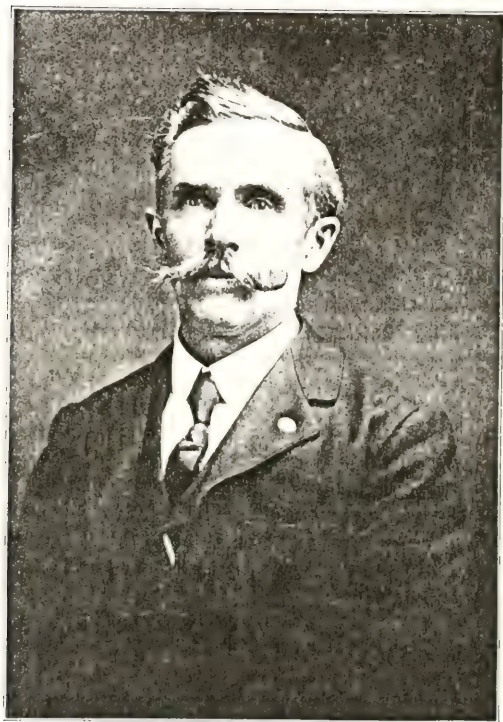
Mrs. Simonds died on February 14, 1915. Mr. Simonds is keeping the home for the boys.

THEODORE HECKMAN.

The present recorder of Putnam county, Ohio, is Theodore Heckman, who was born at Glandorf, this county, and has spent his whole career within its limits. His parents are of German descent, and his father was a blacksmith at Glandorf in this county for many years. Mr. Hackman is an expert blacksmith and was following that line of work when he was elected recorder of Putnam county. He has taken an active part in the life of his community and has filled various official positions before assuming the duties of the recorder's office.

Theodore Heckman, the son of Henry and Catherine (Evers) Heckman, was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, October 12, 1858. His father was born on October 29, 1830, at Barlo Kreis, Bezirk Borken, Westphalia, Prussia, and came to this country with his parents when he was seventeen years of age. Upon arriving in this country, Henry Heckman learned the blacksmith trade at Cincinnati, Ohio. From there he went to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he resided until his death, following his trade until 1893, when he retired from active work. Henry Heckman was an industrious man and an expert blacksmith. He was trustee of the present church at Glandorf, which was built in the years 1875 to 1878. His wife, Catherine Evers, was born in Germany and arrived in this country with her parents when a young girl, settling at New Cleveland, Ohio. Henry Heckman and Catherine Evers were married on October 23, 1855, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1905. To this union six children were born, three of whom are still living and residing at Glandorf, Theodore, Mary and Joseph. Mary is the wife of Barney Drerup. Two children died in infancy, and William died in 1910 at the age of thirty-nine.

Theodore Heckman grew to maturity at Glandorf and there received his education. While still a lad he began to work with his father in the blacksmith shop and learned the trade thoroughly. He not only acquired the rudiments of blacksmithing, but all of the fine points of the business. He knew how to temper and weld and make edged tools of various kinds. Theodore



THEODORE HECKMAN.

followed this trade at Glandorf with his father until the latter retired at the age of sixty, after which he operated the shop alone until his election as recorder of Putnam county.

Mr. Heckman has been a life-long Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his party. He was treasurer of Ottawa township for four years, and for the past twenty years has been a member of the school board of Glandorf. He has been second secretary of the Glandorf German Building and Loan Association for the past eighteen years. In the fall of 1912 he was elected recorder of Putnam county and took his office in September, 1913. In the administration of the duties of this important office he is exercising the same painstaking and careful attention to details which has characterized his work all through his life.

Mr. Heckman was married, in 1880, to Maria Lehmkuhle, who was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Uphaus) Lehmkuhle. Her parents were of German descent, and both of them grew up in Glandorf. The Lehmkuhle family and the Uphaus family both came from Glandorf, Germany, and located in Putnam county, Ohio, early in its history. To this first union of Mr. Heckman were born four children, Charles, Maggie, Louis and Clara. Charles is in the Bank of Ottawa. He married Dora Unverferth and has two children, George and Margaret. Maggie is the wife of Lawrence Myer, and lives at Lima, Ohio. Louis, who married Sophia Wannamaker, is the principal of the high school at Ottoville, Ohio. Clara is at home with her father. The mother of these four children died in 1897, and two years later Mr. Heckman married Catherine Kerkemeier, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, and is a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Lauf) Kerkemeier. Her father was a carpenter at Glandorf and a native of Germany, as was his wife. To this second marriage have been born three children, Harry, Agnes and Annie.

Henry Kerkemeier, the father of Mrs. Heckman, was born at Delmuck, West Phalen, Prussia, and arrived in America in 1853. His wife, Catherine Lauf, was born in July, 1825, and died in this country March 3, 1912. They lived all their lives in Glandorf, this county. Mr. Kerkemeier built the present church at New Cleveland.

Mr. Heckman and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a man universally respected and no official better administers the duties of office than Mr. Heckman. He is essentially a self-made man, and his present prosperity is due to his own efforts.

JOHN THOMPSON MALLAHAN.

By some power inherent, man is capable of forging ahead in his life's vocation. There are many elements which make for success, of which industry is perhaps the most important. The farmer, especially, must be industrious to succeed. But in these latter days farming, likewise, is dependent upon good management, a knowledge of soil, marketing facilities, prices, skillful rotation of crops, and the raising of good breeds of live stock. John Thompson Mallahan is an enterprising and successful farmer of Riley township and one who has been honored by the citizens of Putnam county and holds the important office of county commissioner. Throughout his career, Mr. Mallahan has been a power in Putnam county politics, and is looked upon today as one of the important leaders in both its civic and social life.

Mr. Mallahan was born on May 27, 1853, in Hancock county. He is the son of Charles F. and Jane (Downing) Mallahan. Charles F. Mallahan was born September 26, 1818, in Fairfield county, Ohio, in a part which later became a part of Franklin county. Charles F. Mallahan was a son of Thompson and Sarah (Clymer) Mallahan, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, born about 1790. It is supposed that his parents emigrated from Virginia to eastern Kentucky and resided in or near Breathitt county. Thompson Mallahan was a soldier in the War of 1812. After the war, he settled in Fairfield county, where he was married to Sarah Clymer. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom died of cholera. Another died about ten years later. After the cholera epidemic, the remaining three grew to maturity. They were Charles F. Rolly, and Nancy, who married John McDowell.

During the cholera epidemic at Columbus, 1832-1833, Thompson Mallahan was one of the first victims. Charles F. Mallahan also suffered an attack of the deadly malady, but survived. About two years later, in 1835, when Charles F. Mallahan was seventeen years old, his mother removed to Hancock county, where he cared for her and the children. William died here at the age of ten or twelve years. Shortly after moving to Hancock county, Charles F. Mallahan's mother married Owen Street, by whom two other children were born, Sarah Jane and Louisa. Charles F. Mallahan was married in 1847, when he was twenty-nine years old, to Jane Downing, daughter of John and Mary (Boiler) Downing. John Downing was a na-

tive of Kentucky, and his wife, Mary (Boiler) Downing, a native of Virginia. Jane Downing was born on January 25, 1817, in Pike county, Ohio.

After his marriage, Charles F. Mallahan lived on a farm in Union township, Hancock county, three miles north of Mount Cory. Here he lived until 1861, and moved to near Moffit Station. He moved one and one-half miles west of Benton Ridge on the Ridge road, in 1863, and in 1866 he sold out everything and moved to Kansas. He returned to Hancock county, in 1867, locating three and one-half miles west of Findlay. He moved to the northwest part of Riley township, Putnam county in 1872, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land. This was his last residence. He died here on December 30, 1877. Charles F. and Jane Mallahan had five children, Rusena became the wife of John C. Lee and died in 1867; David, born 1850, died in infancy; Sarah is unmarried and lives with her brother; John T. is the subject of this sketch. Mary became the wife of Charles F. Alkire. Mrs. Jane (Downing) Mallahan died at her son's home on April 25, 1914, at the ripe old age of ninety-seven years.

John Thompson Mallahan remained with his parents during his youth, coming with them from Hancock to Putnam county, in 1872. On account of his father's feeble health, John Thompson relieved him of the most arduous duties of the farm.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Mallahan was married on November 5, 1876, to Rebecca A. Carr, who was born on November 7, 1856, Pleasant township. She is the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Sawmiller) Carr. Jacob was born in Ross county, Ohio, June 9, 1819, and died in Putnam county, Ohio, November 21, 1910. His wife was born on April 9, 1821, in Pennsylvania, and died on August 13, 1909, in Putnam county.

After his marriage, Mr. Mallahan continued to make his residence at the old home place. He had practical charge of operating the farm, which was divided, John Thompson retaining that portion on which the old home place is located, and as a farmer has prospered. A few years ago he was a successful breeder of Poland-China hogs. He and his associate, George W. Pope, were the first stock men to introduce thoroughbred Poland-China hogs in Putnam county. Until recently he has been a successful breeder of cattle for the market.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson Mallahan have six children, Norval E. was born on August 11, 1877; Chloe L. was born on December 30, 1878; Mary Jane, born on January 24, 1881, is the wife of C. A. Countryman. They have one child, Lucile; Florence C., born on August 23, 1885, is unmarried and lives at home; Charles F., born on March 14, 1887, married

Versa Rymer. They have one child, John R., and live at Spring Lake, Michigan; Lenora R., born on October 21, 1895, died December 3, 1896.

Throughout his life, Mr. Mallahan has been a Democrat. He has served as commissioner of Putnam county for seven years and has discharged the duties of this office in a highly satisfactory manner. He also served as justice of the peace for three years, and was a member of the school board for several years. He was a member of the Putnam county agricultural board for fifteen years, and for four years of this time served as vice-president. For five years he was president of this body. Mr. Mallahan attends the Methodist Protestant church, of which Mrs. Mallahan is a devoted member. He is a member of No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, of the Chapter No. 125, of the Council No. 69. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 565, at Ottawa.

John Thompson Mallahan is one of Putnam county's most prominent and substantial citizens, a man well and favorably known, as is evidenced by the numerous offices conferred upon him by the people. Mr. Mallahan was one of the organizers of the Mutual Telephone Company in 1903. He has been president of this company until quite recently, and is still a director in the company. Mr. Mallahan has also been one of the organizers of the Assembly of Mutual Telephone Companies, composed of thirty-two mutual telephone companies, the object of which is to conserve the interests of the different companies and to secure better and more adequate long distance service. Mr. Mallahan has been secretary of this organization since its formation, in 1904.

JOHN FRANKLIN CARVER.

A resident of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1880, John Franklin Carver has been engaged in agricultural pursuits since that year. He rented the farm on which he is now living for a few years and then purchased it and has made extensive improvements since acquiring it.

John Franklin Carver, the son of Gilbert and Rebecca (Nutt) Carver, was born near Delta, Fulton county, Ohio, August 17, 1857. His father was born in New York state, December 20, 1831, and died in Fulton county, December 16, 1880. Gilbert Carver was the son of A. B. Carver, and at the age of seven moved with his parents to Hillsdale, Michigan, where his father, A. B. Carver, entered government land and lived the remainder of his days.

A. B. Carver was a great hunter and for years kept his family supplied with fresh meat as the result of his prowess with the rifle.

Gilbert Carver was educated in Michigan and attended the primitive log school houses which were in use in his day. When he was about twenty-two years of age, Gilbert Carver came to Fulton county, Ohio, and married Rebecca Nutt, who was born in England in May, 1838, and died in February, 1902. She was a daughter of John Nutt and came to America, at the age of twelve, with her parents.

Before settling in Fulton county, Gilbert Carver enlisted in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served during the Civil War. He spent the remainder of his life in Fulton county. He farmed in a number of places and finally settled in Swan Creek township, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land at the time of his death. Gilbert Carver and wife were the parents of seven children, John F., Leipsic, Ohio; Louis N., Fulton county; Clara, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Urbin; George William, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio; Albert, of Toledo; Emma, the wife of Arthur Raker, of Fulton county, and Charles Frederick, of Rose City, Michigan.

John Franklin Carver was reared on his father's farm and attended the neighboring schools. After his marriage he located in Fulton county, but two years later, in the fall of 1880, he moved to Putnam county, where he rented a farm seven miles northeast of Leipsic. Nine years later he bought this same farm and has since made it his residence.

Mr. Carver was married to Elizabeth Urbin, who was born on March 16, 1858, near Findlay, Ohio. She is a daughter of Andrew and Barbara Urbin, natives of Saxony, Germany, who came to America in 1848 and settled in Findlay, Ohio, living there until their death. Andrew Urbin was an expert stock raiser, his specialty being hogs and horses. Mr. Carver and wife are the parents of five children, four of whom are living, Cora A., Ora May and Rolla J. Cora A. is the wife of Elmer Otto, a farmer of this county, and has five children, Irwin, Hester, Warren, Wanita and Rolla. Ora May is the wife of Clyde Pickens, a farmer of this county, and has five children, Raymond, Vernon, James, Florence and Ernest. Rolla J. married Edith Baker, and has two children, Elizabeth and Dorothy; Albert married Vurah Hook, and has one child, Inez. Albert farms the home place.

Rolla J. Carver is a graduate of the Ohio State University, where he took the course in veterinary science. A few years ago he received an appointment in a minor position in the food inspection department of the city of Columbus, Ohio, and in this position he demonstrated his ability

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